



# WORK EXPERIENCE: VETERINARY PROJECT ARGENTINA

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### LATIN AMERICA ... THE ANDES ... THE IGUACU FALLS

**Argentina is at once majestic and flamboyant!**

**The romance of Argentina takes one's breath away. From the magnificent Andes Mountains to the awesome power and beauty of the Iguazu Falls, your placement in this colourful country will be unforgettable**

Buenos Aires is a cosmopolitan and elegant capital city, renowned for its sophistication. The City has a surprisingly European feel and is reminiscent of Paris with its tree-lined avenues and frequent plazas - they have a beguiling, faded elegance.



**Our Veterinary Placement is located in the heart of Buenos Aires and is perfect for an animal lover looking to to gain experience working with all types of animals.**

### WHEN YOU ARRIVE:

You'll be met at the airport by our Organisers and taken to your accommodation, which is most likely to be at Palermo House hostel, a lively hostel in the centre of the city and close to many of the city's main attractions. Several days after your arrival you will be taken to start your placement.

### THE VET CLINIC AND PET SHOP

Our volunteers work with one of the largest vet clinics and pet shops in Buenos Aires. It is located downtown, a few blocks away from 9 de Julio Avenue. Along its 150 square meters, the Centre is a leading specialty retailer of pets, premium pet food, supplies and services.

Depending on the season, the pets' shop and vet clinic has a lot of animals (some for sale, some under vet care since they are ill and some using the pets shop as a vacation stay).

The Centre provides clients with veterinary assistance and has the necessary equipment for special studies such as electrocardiograms, ecographies and X-rays.

It offers a wide variety of animals for sale, ranging from cats and dogs to all types of birds (canaries, cockatiels, lovebirds, parrots of all sizes, parakeets, etc.), reptiles (iguanas, anoles, geckos, ball python, varanus, turtles, etc.), cold and tropical water fishes, titi monkeys and small animals (chinchillas, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, mice, rabbits, rats, etc.).

### YOUR WORK RESPONSIBILITIES

There are 15 people working between the Vet Clinic and Pet Shop, including two vets. Working hours are from Monday to Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. There are also people on Sundays doing the cleaning and feeding the animals. An



intermediate Spanish level is required to work in the clinic (vet consultations and surgeries). You will need a strong passion for animals to be able, during your stay in Buenos Aires, to become part of the centre in three different areas; depending on your likes, experience and level of Spanish. These areas are:

- Providing assistance to the local vet during consultations and surgeries.
- Helping take care of the boarding pets as well as those for sale and under medical care (e.g. cleaning the cages, feeding the animals, checking their health, administering their medicine, etc.)
- Helping with the pets' grooming



These activities will give you the unique opportunity to work hands-on and to observe the reality of day-to-day care of pets while you improve your level of Spanish mingling with local employees and dealing with clients.

Additionally, the centre organizes special talks and short courses for anyone interested in learning about the pets' world and the basics on veterinary nursing. You will be welcome to both attend these talks as well as, under certain circumstances, also give them.

***"I definitely think that this has been a worthwhile experience for me because I have learnt a lot about reptiles which I have not had much previous contact with before. Also I have been able to see a country which is totally different to anything that I have experienced before. Overall, I feel that Buenos Aires is an exciting an exuberant city, with many European influences. As I have been going on weekend trips, it has made me appreciate the city more". Kathryn Adams on her placement in Argentina.***



## WHO CAN APPLY?

The owner of the centre is extremely generous in the sense that if you show passion for the animals he gives you the chance to get involved. Any volunteer who can show a love for animals and willingness to help will be welcome. Vet doctors or vet students are most welcome and will be able to help with the clinic.

Applicants should be able to meet the following criteria:

- No degree or experience is required but you must have a strong passion for animals
- Be over 17 years of age
- Be able to speak some Spanish (intermediate level) to work in the clinic. Your involvement and learning possibilities will depend on your level of Spanish and willingness to participate. If you are a vet student or vet doctor, it is highly recommendable that you have a good command of the language.
- Be able to stay for a minimum of 3 weeks/1 month in order to really get into the business.
- Be able to work on your own initiative – this is crucial to your success on the placement.

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS:

In order to apply, please send your a copy of your CV and a covering letter to explain why you want to take part in this placement to [info@travellersworldwide.com](mailto:info@travellersworldwide.com) You must also send an application form and deposit of £190 at the same time in order to secure your placement. Travellers will then submit your application to the owners of the Clinic and await to hear whether you have been accepted. If you are not accepted onto the project then your entire deposit will be refunded.

## ACCOMMODATION

There are two choices for accommodation in Buenos Aires. Depending on your preferences you can either be accommodated in a hostel with other volunteers or, if you would prefer a more cultural experience, you can be placed with a host family.

You will be accommodated in a small hostel in Buenos Aires. You will usually share a room with two, three or four other volunteers. In some circumstances



you may have to share a room with other guests at the hostel. Your hostel is situated in Palermo Viejo (old Palermo) which is a traditional Buenos Aires neighbourhood with wide streets and old houses. Many of these are tree lined avenues and in the heart of Palermo you will find a wide variety of restaurants, bars and boutique style shops. Palermo is a very nice area located near to the heart of the city.

The hostel that you will be staying in is quite small with a relaxed atmosphere and the owners are very friendly. Facilities at your accommodation include: A recreation room with TV; A computer with internet access; A dining and kitchen area where food can be stored; Access to telephones; A call out emergency medical service. The hostel has been decorated in a modern style and most of the rooms are very spacious with high ceilings.

Placements include breakfast (at the hostel) and dinner each day. You will be given an allowance to buy your main evening meal each day. As there is a wide variety of choice of eateries in Buenos Aires this arrangement will give you the opportunity to choose where you would like to eat each day. Please note that money for Lunch is not provided.

Buenos Aires has a lively nightlife and your accommodation is ideally situated. Nearby you will find a wide variety of cinemas, restaurants, pubs, bars and discotheques as well as night transportation in case you want to go even further. There is a lot going on and you won't be short of things to do – this is a 24 hour city with plenty to do!

If you would prefer a more cultural experience, we can arrange for you to stay with a local Argentinean Family. Host family accommodation gives you the opportunity to become more integrated with the local community and is ideal if you want to practise your Spanish. You will be provided with a comfortable and clean private room and will have use of the kitchen. You will be provided breakfast and for dinner, you will usually share a typical Argentinean meal with your family.

Facilities in host families do vary, but you will have the opportunity to express your preferences regarding the type of family that you stay with (for example, a family with/without children, pets etc).

If you stay in a host family you will be provided with the contact details of other volunteers living in Buenos Aires at the same time as you so that you won't miss out on any socialising!

## **ABOUT ARGENTINA AND BUENOS AIRES**

The romance of Argentina takes one's breath away. The natural wonders alone take some beating! From the northern deserts to the southern Andean Cordillera, from Iguazú Falls to the magnificent desolation of Patagonia, Argentina's geography is varied and stunning.

Argentina is geared up to thrill - from nights tangoing in the chic quarter of Buenos Aires to gaucho riding in the grasslands of the Pampas. Dynamic and bustling, a city which never sleeps, Buenos Aires is one of the most exciting cities in Latin America. Tango was born here, restaurants serve all manner of world cuisines, bars play the latest music, cafés spill on to the streets and nightclubs allow dancing throughout the night.

Buenos Aires is famous throughout South America for its theatres, museums and galleries. Gucci, Armani, Prada, to name a few, line the boulevards catering for the fashion conscious porteños, their offerings as stylish as anything found in the cities in Europe or North America.

Argentine cuisine is an adaptation of Spanish, Italian, Middle Eastern and other European food, with a heavy emphasis on meat, in particular Beef. Beef is consumed in a variety of ways, the most traditional is the Parilla – other wise known as a Barbeque! Also common are meat and vegetable pies, empanadas (similar to pasties) and pasta dishes such as meat Ravioli or Bolognese.

If you are a vegetarian you may find that there is a limited choice in some restaurants as vegetarianism is not all that common in Argentina. For example, you may find that although mixed salads are not very adventurous - lettuce, sliced tomato and sliced onion with oil and vinegar is the usual combination.

Argentineans have a sweet tooth and desserts usually include ice cream, custard flan, pastries and cakes all sweet enough to rival those found in



European cities like Paris. Dulche de Leche is a caramelised milk and sugar concoction which is often eaten for breakfast and is a typical local delicacy.

Local cuisine is just one of the delights in this vibrant and unique city.

Area: 2,776,890 sq km (1,083,000 sq mi)

Population: 37,812,817

Capital city: Buenos Aires (pop 16 million)

Language: American Spanish, plus 17 indigenous languages

### THE NEXT STEP

If you would like to join us on one of our exciting projects then please fill in either an online application form at our website ([www.travellersworldwide.com](http://www.travellersworldwide.com)) or one that is attached to our brochure. Once you have booked and confirmed your place we will send you detailed pack information regarding your placement and country.

**I do hope you join us and please do call or email if you have any questions at all about this or any of our other projects – 01903 502595 or email [info@travellersworldwide.com](mailto:info@travellersworldwide.com)**

**If you would like to know more about Travellers in general, or about any of our other projects we run in over 18 countries worldwide, please visit our website at [www.travellersworldwide.com](http://www.travellersworldwide.com)**

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