



# WORK EXPERIENCE: VETERINARY CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### South Africa has everything ...

- ◆ Sun, sparkling warm and clear oceans, and the most beautiful golden beaches you will ever see ... stretching for miles.
- ◆ Mountain climbing, biking and hiking
- ◆ The *Garden Route*, world famous and sheer paradise!
- ◆ Outstanding Game Reserves where you can see wild animals in their natural habitat, and by contrast symmetric vineyards stretching to infinity
- ◆ Sharks, whales and dolphins, and the amusing Cape Fur Seals.
- ◆ Elegant restaurants, barbecues and beach parties
- ◆ And FRUIT everywhere!

But most of all, South Africans are the friendliest and most hospitable people in the world - without a doubt! If you're invited to dinner ... don't eat for a week beforehand because you'll be overfed, especially if it's a barbecue. Wine is cheap and good. The salads are to die for.

And - of course - the fruit! From the exotic to the commonplace, it's everywhere.

*"I've been very busy, LOVING working with Dr. Cathy Wahl at the vet clinic. I couldn't be happier and love both her and her staff. I've seen a variety of procedures so far and am already perfecting my stitching technique. Cathy has been arranging for me to travel around to a few other vet clinics too, which has been great. I've met loads of people here and am having a fabulous time!" Devon Swartz*



### Brief Summary of the Placement:

You will work in a general vet practice in Cape Town - small, but very friendly. It is typical of a veterinary clinic in South Africa. The practice deals mainly with domestic animals, but you may also get an occasional opportunity to help out at the Blue Cross Animal Hospital, which is much bigger. The Blue Cross is a privately-owned veterinary practice that deals with a wide range of veterinary procedures and if you spend time here, you should get exposure to larger animals such as cattle and horses.

As this is a small practice, your work responsibilities will differ according to what is required at the time you're there.

*"I absolutely, positively love it. Cathy is not only an incredible vet, but also a wonderful person and teacher to be around. Already I've learned how to stitch small incisions, administer shots, and to clean teeth while animals are under sedation. She explains every aspect of her days to me as we go and the information is overwhelming, but inspiring."*



## YOUR WORK AT THE CLINIC:

As with nearly all work experience placements, the content and elements of your work can and will change according to what is required at the time you're there, so please be prepared for some of the following information to change during your time in the placement.

The practice opens at 8.30 but you will be expected to come in around 9:00 am. The practice has surgery in the mornings between 09.00 and 12.00 and in the afternoons between 15.30 and 18.30. Lunchtime is usually between 12.20 and 15.00 depending on how busy they are. You will be free to leave the surgery during this time.

Days can be long and at times you may find the work to be slow as it only becomes busy when animals are brought in. There will be a variety of different jobs that you'll need to assist with and some of these will not be directly related to working with the animals, such as attending to the upkeep and cleaning of the premises, or helping out with Reception. In other words, you must be prepared to do anything and everything that needs to be done during the time you're there.



It is a small practice with one vet, two receptionists who rotate and two general assistants/cleaners who also rotate. The Vet, Cathy Wahl, is a very enthusiastic and friendly person who is looking forward to having you there on your placement.

You will also have opportunities to shadow the Vet with plenty of scope for observation and some hands-on work. Depending on your experience and confidence, you may be able to participate in basic and simple procedures under supervision, such as making blood smears, analysing urine samples, learning to prep surgical sites, etc. This will also depend on whether the Vet feels you have the capabilities to take part in these activities.

It is also possible that part of your placement may take place at the Blue Cross Animal Hospital, which is located further out of the city. The Blue Cross has quite a few vets and deals with household pets and other types of animals. Some of the Blue Cross vets visit patients in outlying districts and you may be able to accompany some of them on some of these visits.

## ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

A ten minute walk from the centre of the bustling Cape Town CBD is the quieter, more chilled out area of Green Point. Here we use St Johns Waterfront Lodge, one of the better known backpackers' lodges for your accommodation. It is not only close to the city, but also to the famous V&A Waterfront (5 min walk) and literally a hop, skip and jump away from the ocean. Among a host of other activities, from here you can visit the world-famous Robben Island by boat, where Nelson Mandela was held prisoner for 27 years!

Apart from other Travellers volunteers, this hostel mainly attracts international travellers to Cape Town. It is uniquely built on two plots so literally has two of everything, including two pools! They are very friendly and will always help you where needed. They can answer any questions or can even help when you need some TLC because you feel a bit homesick!



The Main Lodge is the centre of all the lodges and is a meeting point for everyone. You can discuss your day in the living room, have a nice chat out on the terrace, go for a swim, watch a movie, etc.

Included in the placement cost is a single room so that you have your own space to lock up when you go out.

This lodge has a living room, lots of bathrooms and a two well-equipped kitchens. It also has a lovely big (recently renovated) living area with satellite TV, a cosy bar and very comfy couches. In the main outdoor area, there are two pools, the braai (South African for BBQ) area and lots of tables and benches in the beautiful garden. There is a

payphone inside the main lounge and a FREE internet service. St John's has also recently fitted a CCTV security system, so you can live with peace of mind, knowing that you are safe and sound.

**Food:** You will be given a food allowance to buy your own food from the big supermarket up the road. The lodge is equipped with a kitchen with a fridge, stove, oven and microwave, and all the necessities to cook a good meal.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The World Cup kicks off in June 2010 in Cape Town and accommodation surcharges WILL apply during this period. We can advise you on the extra cost closer to the time.

#### **ON ARRIVAL IN SOUTH AFRICA:**

You will be met at the airport by our Cape Town Manager, Jim Morel, or one of our staff, who will take you to your accommodation and introduce you to everyone.

They will also take you to your place of work and introduce you there. Our SA team is on call 24/7 if necessary, and are always there to help you in many different ways. Of course, they are in regular contact with you.



### **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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*The Waterfront in Cape Town, with the famous "table cloth" (clouds) on top of Table Mountain in the background*