



CHEETAH OUTREACH GENERAL INFORMATION FOR INTENDING LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

Dear Applicant,

Thank you so much for your interest in Cheetah Outreach. It is always a pleasure to hear from other people wishing to dedicate part of their lives to the conservation of Africa's most endangered big cat. We are a non-profit organisation committed to the conservation of the African cheetah and we rely on public support for our education, public-awareness, and livestock guarding dog programmes.

Cheetah Outreach aims to promote the survival of the cheetah as a free-ranging species by working with our ambassador cheetahs to encourage people to gain a greater understanding of these magnificent animals.

Visits to our Somerset West facility by school groups allow children to gain personal experiences of our cheetahs, in the hope of planting the seed of a conservation ethic. We also offer cheetah encounters to visitors at the facility, which is an important source of fund-raising for us.

We rely heavily on our volunteers to educate the public on the plight of the cheetah and on the delivery of our conservation programmes, particularly our Livestock Guarding Dog Project. Full training is given.

Our volunteer programme involves both local and international volunteers. We provide self-catering accommodation and transport to and from work for our international and some of our full-time volunteers.

The daily duties of volunteers include greeting visitors at the facility and informing them about our project and about the cheetah in general, food preparation, merchandise sales, duties at our entrance, cleaning (dishes, enclosures, shop floors, office and passages, vehicles, etc.), and taking care of our Anatolian shepherd dogs. This will sometimes involve hard manual labour such as building fences and gates, carpentry, digging and other tasks needed for the general maintenance of our enclosures.

Please note that one of the main responsibilities of volunteers will be to tend to guests and to work hands-on with the public. This requires a person who is outgoing, confident and enthusiastic, and proficient in English. This means that about 90% of a volunteer's time will be spent dealing with the general public.

The amount of time that a volunteer is able to spend with our animals depends on the relationship that he or she builds with them. Obviously, this only comes with time and patience, and at the discretion of the handlers. All volunteers, regardless of the length of time at Cheetah Outreach, must have a handler with them when visiting any of the cheetahs. The progress of each volunteer will vary and depends on individual ability as well as pre-existing skills and capabilities.

Please note that our volunteers are only accepted after successfully moving through our selection process. This process involves questionnaires and references, as well as a recent photo of the person. Before actually gaining a confirmed place as a volunteer with us, we would like to stress that simply filling out the questionnaires does not guarantee you a volunteer position. At any stage in this application process, we may decide that you are unsuitable for work with Cheetah Outreach, or that the period of time you are intending to volunteer is not suitable. You will be notified as to whether you have been accepted or denied a volunteer place.

Because of the nature of volunteer duties involved, we can ONLY accept applicants who are fluent in English.

Due to the nature of the work that we do, all volunteers need to be at least 18 years old.

The following pages provide more information about what is expected of our volunteers.

CHEETAH OUTREACH

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

THE FACILITY

- Volunteer hours are **from 8:00 am to 5:15pm with 1/2 hour for lunch**. These times may vary, depending on whether there is an early morning or evening presentation with the cheetahs. The facility is open 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Lunch breaks are not guaranteed to be at any particular or regular time and are dependent on staff availability and how busy we are.
- Local volunteers are required to work a minimum of 4 days per month in order to ensure consistency within the programme.
- The work will initially consist of general maintenance, assisting in the merchandising centre, attending to guests at our entrance, educating guests, preparing food for the dogs and cleaning up the feeding area, as well as hard manual labour around the holding enclosures.
- After a period of time you will be introduced to some of our animals and, depending on their reaction to you, you will assist a handler by taking guests into their enclosures for encounters. The length of time that it takes for the animals to accept you will vary from person to person. When visiting any of our cheetahs, a handler must always be present.
- Once you are able to go into the animal enclosures, you will assist in changing water and cleaning the enclosures.
- All volunteers will be given the opportunity to assist in the care of the Anatolian shepherd dogs at our facility.
- For the purpose of assigning duties and rosters, all local volunteers are required to be on WhatsApp.

UNIFORM

- All volunteers need to conform to the Cheetah Outreach uniform of “safari” colours (i.e.: beige, khaki, light brown, green, etc).
- You will need to buy a Cheetah Outreach T-shirt which we can supply to you at approximately R80. We require you to wear your own trousers/shorts (khaki or light brown in colour) and working shoes (e.g. hiking or sports shoes).
- A heavy raincoat and waterproof boots are also recommended for the cold and rainy winter months. Trousers and warm clothes should be of a “safari” colour (beige or green preferably).

- We also require a volunteer to purchase a fleece jacket from us in the winter months. The fleece will cost approximately R120. The reason we request you to purchase one from us is that it fits in with our uniform dress code. We also have a rain jacket available at approximately R240.
- Volunteers need to wear closed shoes; for safety reasons we do not allow sandals. Only trainers or hiking shoes (or something similar) are allowed.
- Please bring your own whistle. Every person is required to carry a whistle on him/her at all times in case of emergencies, and will not be allowed to work with the animals unless equipped with one.

PROBATION PERIOD

- **All volunteers will be subjected to a 2-week probationary period.** At the end of this period, his or her position will be re-evaluated and Cheetah Outreach retains the right to terminate the agreement on grounds of incompatibility.

INNOCULATIONS

- All volunteers must have an up-to-date tetanus inoculation as well as being fully vaccinated against Covid-19 before they can start at Cheetah Outreach.
- Any volunteer wanting to work with our meerkats must be inoculated against rabies. However, please note that it is not compulsory to work with these animals.
- We strongly recommend that all volunteers undergo regular de-worming treatments. We work in close proximity to our animals and the transfer of parasites is a real possibility.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Please note that photographs taken during a volunteer's time at Cheetah Outreach may only be used for personal use. No photographs may be sold or published or used for any commercial purpose without the permission of the Director, Annie Beckhelling.