



VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

Rescue | Rehabilitate | Release

ABOUT US

C.R.O.W. (Centre for Rehabilitation of Wildlife) is South Africa's **oldest and busiest wildlife rehabilitation centre**, dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of injured, orphaned, or displaced wild animals. CROW cares for over 3,000 animals each year, and our team of committed staff and volunteers ensures that these animals receive the care they need to return to the wild.

As a registered non-profit organisation, CROW relies on public support, both locally and internationally, to keep our doors open. **Accredited by NSPCA**, we adhere to global standards in wildlife rehabilitation and ethics, continuously working to improve the quality of care and raise awareness for wildlife conservation in South Africa. We are committed to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of wildlife in need and believe that education and action are key to the protection of natural resources.

CROW cares for a wide variety of animals, and while there is no guarantee of what species you will encounter during your volunteer stay, some regular residents include garden birds, birds of prey, grey blue duiker, vervet monkeys, baboons, tortoises, mongoose, genets and bushbuck. Keep in mind that you might not work directly with all of these animals, as they come and go based on their rehabilitation needs.



The Best Cage Is An Empty Cage

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Volunteering at CROW is a unique and unforgettable experience, offering a hands-on opportunity to support wildlife conservation in South Africa. Volunteers assist with the daily care of **300-600 animals** at any given time and work alongside experienced rehabilitators, learning about the challenges of wildlife rehabilitation. We offer on-site accommodation for up to 12 volunteers, just a short walk from the clinic.

Please note: CROW is a wildlife rehabilitation center, not a sanctuary. To ensure the successful release of our wildlife, we strictly limit direct interaction with animals to prevent taming and ensure their best chance of survival in the wild.

During your first week, you will receive an orientation that includes:

- Introduction to CROW, the team and the animals in our care
- Animal care protocols: diet, preparation of food, and cleaning enclosures
- Health and safety procedures
- Animal handling, if required
- Equipment use
- Local plant identification

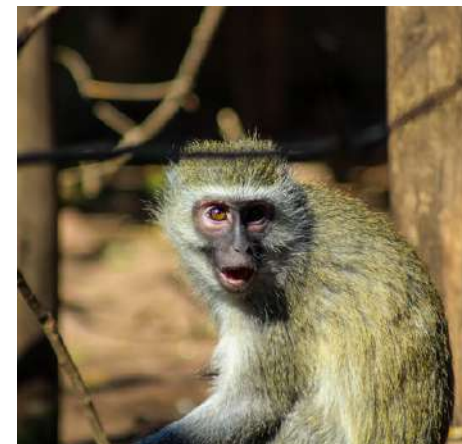


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TYPICAL DAY OF A CLINIC VOLUNTEER

Clinic volunteers assist with the day-to-day operations of CROW's rehabilitation efforts. This includes preparing food, cleaning enclosures, and general maintenance. While the work can be physically demanding and repetitive, it is vital for the animals' recovery. You will also have opportunities to assist with enrichment activities, animal rescues, releases and support educational outreach with schools. If you stay three months or longer, you will be entrusted with more responsibilities, such as orphan feeds (dependent on animals and season).

It is important to note that you may be required to prepare meals for carnivores, which could include handling raw meat (birds, chicks, and mice). Cleaning of enclosures may also involve removing faecal matter.



TYPICAL DAY OF A MARKETING VOLUNTEER

Marketing and fundraising volunteers assist with content creation, including photography, video editing, and digital marketing tasks such as website updates and writing blogs. Depending on the season, you may also support CROW's key fundraising events, like the annual Walk in the Wild.

This role offers a fantastic opportunity to improve your skills in marketing and fundraising while working alongside our clinic team to assist in rescues, releases, and the rehabilitation process. You may be required to bring your own laptop when volunteering in this department.



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TYPICAL DAY OF A CLINIC VOLUNTEER

7am	7am - 9:30am	9:30am - 10am	10am - 12pm	12pm - 1pm	1pm - 3pm	3pm
Daily volunteer meeting	Cleaning enclosures and preparing morning feeds	Tea break	Enrichment preparation, greenery cutting, tortoise care	Lunch time	Afternoon cleaning and feed preparations	End of the day, unless you are on rescue duty from 17:00 till 20:00

TYPICAL DAY OF A MARKETING VOLUNTEER

7am	7am - 9:30am	9:30am - 10am	10am - 12pm	12pm - 1pm	1pm - 3pm	3pm
Goal setting with Marketing & Fundraising team	Capture content during morning rounds with clinic	Tea break	Research and develop ideas for digital content	Lunch time	Create and edit content for social media and website	End of the day, unless you are on rescue duty from 17:00 till 20:00

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EXCURSION & FREE TIME

With two days off per week, you will have the opportunity to explore Durban's surroundings and KwaZulu-Natal's natural beauty. Whether it is a day on Durban's beaches, hiking in the Drakensberg Mountains, or a safari trip to Zululand, there are plenty of activities to choose from.

Daily activities:

- uShaka Marine World
- PheZulu Cultural Experience
- Horse riding
- Zip-lining
- Guided snorkeling
- Helicopter rides
- Local markets & shopping
- Cinema, mountain biking, and more

Multi-day excursions:

- Explore the Drakensberg Mountains
- Visit the Nelson Mandela Capture Site in Midlands
- Take a 4x4 trip to the Sani Pass and into Lesotho
- Safari tours in Hluhluwe-Umfolozi



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KEY INFORMATION

- Capacity: **Maximum 12 volunteers.**
- Duration: **Minimum 2 weeks**, with no maximum limit based on availability.
- Age requirement: **Volunteers must be 18+** and physically fit to participate in daily tasks.
- Languages: a basic understanding of English is needed; however, South Africa has 12 official languages with Zulu and Afrikaans also spoken on property.
- Clothing: Bring old, lightweight, comfortable clothes, closed shoes, a raincoat, and sunblock. Durban's climate is hot and humid, though winters can be cooler at night.
- Accommodation: Shared volunteer house with WiFi, laundry, and basic amenities. **Volunteers are responsible for keeping it clean and tidy.**



FEES INCLUDE:

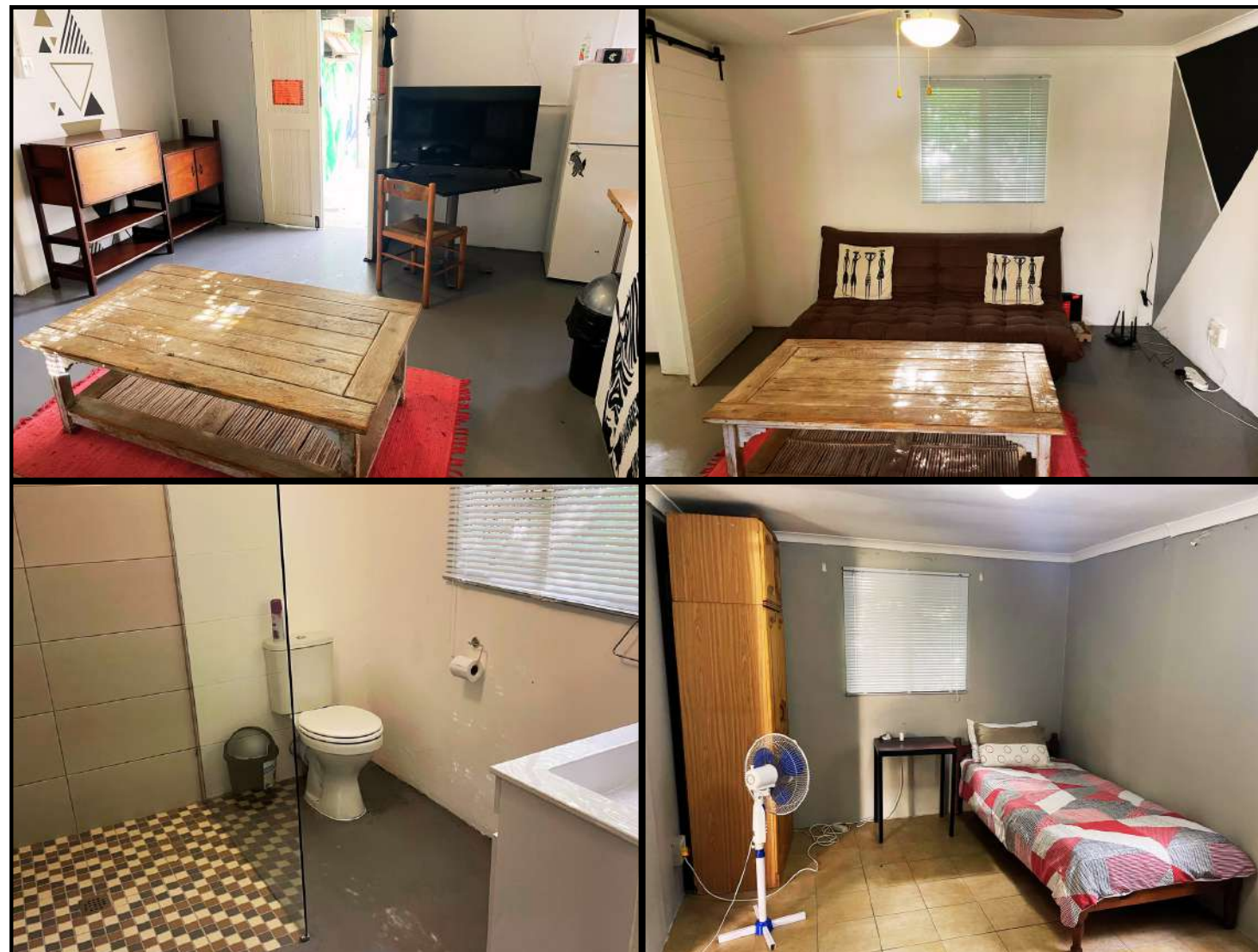
- Accommodation & bedding
- Meals & certain beverages (excl. alcoholic beverages)
- Free WiFi
- Volunteer t-shirt
- Educational sessions and lectures on wildlife rehabilitation and conservation basics
- Donation to CROW



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PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION

Our private accommodation at CROW is ideal for families or couples looking to volunteer together. It offers a comfortable, quiet space to relax and recharge after a rewarding day spent caring for wildlife, while still being close to all the action on site.



SHARED ACCOMMODATION

Our shared accommodation at CROW is perfect for individuals wanting the full volunteer experience. Stay alongside fellow volunteers, make new friends, and enjoy a lively, social environment while fully immersing yourself in the day-to-day care of wildlife.





HOW TO APPLY:



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WHAT YOU WILL NEED

What to bring:

- Passport & visa (if applicable)
- Travel insurance (with medical coverage)
- Cash & credit cards
- Driver's license (if planning to rent a car)
- Marketing & fundraising volunteers are required to bring a laptop

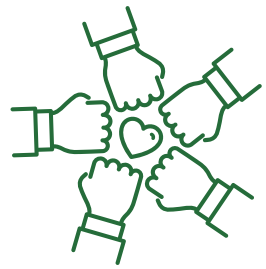
C.R.O.W. will send you a detailed packing list once your booking is confirmed.

Getting to CROW:

Volunteers can fly to King Shaka International Airport in Durban, and C.R.O.W. can arrange a pickup from the airport at an additional cost or advise on transportation options. Please let us know in case you need transportation, so we can assist you with that.



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Our volunteers rated
the programme

8.9 OUT OF 10



Our volunteers rated
the accommodation

8 OUT OF 10

“ This has been my first sort of experience like this and it warms my heart to be surrounded by so many people who share such a deep passion for animals. You were all so welcoming and helpful in guiding me through my first week, no question ever felt too silly. ”

“ CROW was beyond my expectations. I could never imagine all of this. ”

“ The staff and other volunteers were amazing. They did not hesitate to help me with anything I needed. ”



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<https://crowkzn.co.za/>

For any questions about your application get in touch with our volunteer coordinator.

We look forward to having you join our family!

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