

Zambia Chimp Project



Veterinary training with a difference!

Exciting once in a life time opportunity for vets and veterinary students to gain practical experience working with great apes.

4th – 20th October 2013

Veterinary workshop to carry out full and comprehensive health checks on over 120 chimpanzees in a Zambian wildlife rescue centre. Learn about the practical aspects of primate medicine and field techniques including darting, anaesthesia, health evaluation, sample collection, ultrasonography and contraceptive surgery.

£1,800 / 2,000 euros per person

To request a full information pack please contact
info@wvs.org.uk



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Zambia Chimpanzee Rescue Centre Volunteer Information Pack 2013

Once in a lifetime opportunity to gain hands on practical experience working with great apes

In October 2013 Worldwide Veterinary Service, the Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage, and the International Primate Heart Project (IPHP) will be working together to carry out full and comprehensive health checks on over 120 chimpanzees, to include a study on various aspects of chimpanzee health.

Limited places are available for 12 veterinary students to join the team on this exciting project.

In association with



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Participating Organisations

Worldwide Veterinary Service (WVS)

WVS is a UK registered charity committed to improving the treatment and welfare of all animal species throughout the world. Their main emphasis is on the provision of a sustainable veterinary resource in the form of veterinary volunteers, medicines, equipment and advice to assist animal welfare charities and sanctuaries around the world. Over 500 charities are registered with WVS for assistance and the charity sends, on average, at least 4 volunteer teams every month to worldwide destinations assisting on projects ranging from neutering and vaccination campaigns to mobile health clinics, welfare education and conservation.

Chimfunshi Wildlife Rescue Centre

The Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage in central Zambia is a non-profit refuge that cares for a wide variety of sick, wounded or unwanted animals – the primary residents are over 100 orphaned chimpanzees. The chimps live in five social groups inhabiting free range enclosures that span 1,100 acres at the orphanage, including two 500 acres enclosures, the largest area ever set aside for captive primates.

Chimfunshi carry out routine health checks on all of the chimpanzees in their care at least every 3 years. Health checks are due by the end of this year and there are currently 126 chimpanzees which will require full checks.



International Primate Heart Project (IPHP)

The IPHP is an international project of veterinary clinicians, veterinary cardiologists, human physiologists and human cardiologists set up to examine heart disease in great apes. The primary aim of the project is to establish normal reference data for cardiac structure and function in all of the great apes, so that we can better understand and manage heart disease in great apes. The team work alongside zoological and sanctuary collections as and when health assessments are being conducted. During these health assessments the multi-disciplinary team uses electrocardiography, echocardiography and cardiac biomarkers to gain a complete picture of cardiac performance in each of the animals.

Project Background

Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) our closest living relatives, belong to the most endangered animals of our planet and their numbers are continually decreasing because of habitat destruction, bushmeat hunting, illegal trade as well as infectious diseases.

For these reasons, many chimpanzees of different ages end up in rescue centres in Africa, like Chimfunshi. Under human responsibility, and for ensuring their wellbeing, health checks are performed regularly. These health checks provide furthermore the opportunity to collect important data and biological sample materials which will be used to increase our understanding in great ape physiology.



Project Dates

The workshop will take place from the **4th to 20th October 2013**. You may arrive one day in advance. If you are planning to stay in the area longer please state your preferred departure date on your application form.

Volunteers Required



The objective of the workshop is to train veterinarians in practical aspects of primate medicine. A total of 12 places are available for;

- Veterinary Students wanting to gain experience of work with wildlife, particularly great apes
- Zoo vets seeking to refresh or extend their experience in great ape medicine
- Veterinarians who would like to be involved in this amazing, once in a life time experience to work with chimpanzees

No previous experience is required but you must be a registered veterinarian or veterinary student and final selection will be based on resume, letter of intention and booking form.

Language will be mainly English but there will be Spanish and French speakers, so all nationalities are welcome at Chimfunshi.



Volunteer Activities

An active workshop has been designed in order to provide all participants a deep insight into great ape medicine and conservation, linking the theory with practice.

Volunteers will work hand to hand with recognized wildlife experts and will gain skills that only can be learned through participating in real clinical challenges, such as the general anaesthesia procedure of the entire chimpanzee colony.



A health check will be carried out on each chimpanzee and will consist of a complete physical assessment on the general status of each animal and obtaining/taking samples to run in situ a number of complementary tests such as haematology, cytology, biochemistry, urinalysis, parasitology and bacteriology. Parasitology checks will be conducted by Dr Wendi Bailey who has been involved with the diagnosis of parasites in great Apes in PASA sanctuaries since 2005 and is responsible for the parasitology component at the annual PASA workshop.

During the anaesthesia the team will perform a complete ultrasonography evaluation on the animal focusing on the heart function and physiology through electrocardiography. Following the reproduction program for the colony, a number of vasectomies will also be performed as a mean to control reproduction in the sanctuary.

The aim of the workshop is for students to start by assisting during the first procedures and to gain the necessary skills throughout the course of the workshop to be able to carry out many of these techniques on their own by the end.

Working with animals is unpredictable and volunteers must therefore be prepared to be flexible and adapt to unscheduled changes to their itinerary. Eight to ten animals will be anaesthetised per day and students will be split into groups of two in a rotating schedule for assisting in any single step of the procedure as follows;

- Darting,
- Monitoring anaesthesia,





- Health evaluation and sample collection
- Complementary test
- Record keeping,
- Contraceptive surgery
- Ultrasonography

Practical work will be complimented with theory in the form of round tables and lectures that will take place before and during the workshop.

As mentioned, all students will be given the opportunity to work on all different aspects of the project – a rota will be created to ensure that everyone gains as much as possible out of the project, however, if there is an area of particular interest please do state this in your application so that the team can try and accommodate this wherever possible.

Facilities / Personnel

Volunteers will be working with a large team of veterinarians and specialists from different fields they include;



Bruce Peck

Chimfunshi Veterinarian, SA



Dr Wendi Bailey

Manager of the Diagnostic Parasitology Laboratory at
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK



Prof Rob Shave

Cardiovascular Researcher
IPHP Director, UK



Aimee Drane

Cardiac Sonographer
IPHP Manager, UK



Dr Eric Stohr

Cardiovascular Researcher
IPHP Data Manager, UK



Rebeca
Atencia

Primate Veterinarian,
JGI Rescue Centre, Congo



Carlos Sanchez

Zoo and Wildlife Veterinary expert,
Fort Worth, USA



Yedra Feltrer

Zoo Veterinarian
EAZA group on zoo animal contraception, UK.



Pablo Rodríguez
López del Río

Zoo Veterinarian,
Wildvets, Spain

Accommodation

Accommodation will be provided on site at the Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage in dormitory style accommodation in the Education Centre.

Beds and linen is provided as well as an external kitchen, a large outdoor lapa with a fire pit for socialising, hot showers and outside toilets. Although simple, it is clean and comfortable and allows one to experience rural Africa in a way that many tourists are unable. The accommodation is equipped with solar powered electricity (UK plugs) and the internet.

All meals are also provided on site by the catering staff - different dietary requirements can be catered for. In the evenings volunteers can relax around the camp fire, (a variety of drinks are available to purchase) and arrangements can also be made for outings to the nearest town for meals out or sight seeing. The nearest town is Chingola – (70km away).



Kit List – What to Bring

- Sturdy, breathable clothing such as cotton shirts and trousers, scrub suits etc. Loose clothes are preferable and layers are always useful. Long trousers and sleeves will help against mosquitoes. A sweater or light jacket may also be useful for the evenings.
- Comfortable, sturdy shoes
- Insect repellent and antimalarial tablets
- Sun hat, sun glasses and sun cream – October is one of the hottest months in Zambia so you must protect yourself against sunburn and dehydration.
- Torch / head lamp
- Camera (cleaning equipment and a dust proof bag are also useful. Don't forget spare batteries and memory cards!)
- Note pad and pens
- Day pack and water bottle
- Basic first aid kit
- For luggage, please check with your flight provider as to the weight allowance – most domestic flights around Zambia will have a check-in baggage allowance of 15kgs. Many internal flights in Zambia also require passengers to carry their luggage in soft bags / rucksacks rather than hard suitcases.

Flights & Travel

The nearest international airport is Ndola, which is 170km away from the Chimfunshi orphanage. The journey from the airport to the orphanage takes about 3 and a half hours.

All volunteers are required to fly into Ndola before 3pm so that the team can be met on arrival at the airport by a driver who will transport everyone to the orphanage.

Return flights from London to Ndola cost approximately £700 - £800 – dependent on airline and availability.



a world of difference

As volunteers through Worldwide Veterinary Service you are eligible for discounted travel – when travelling on behalf of or at the invitation of this charity through Diversity Travel.

Diversity Travel can offer you options on travel that best suit your needs; taking into consideration local departure airports, preferred routes and carriers, and any other personal preferences you may have. Charity fares can be held for months at a time and don't require a deposit – giving you the greatest flexibility to forward plan your trip.

To find out more about charity fares please visit the following link:

<http://www.diversitytravel.co.uk/charity/charityfares.html>

Contact the Diversity Travel team on 0161 235 5400

You will need to state that you are volunteering for Worldwide Veterinary Service and wish to make a booking through the 'WVS Members' account. You will then be asked for a security code in order to use this service – this code will be given to all successful applications on confirmation of their placement.



Medical Considerations & Vaccinations

This information should be used as a guide only – **for up to date information on immunisations please consult your doctor.** Please note that some vaccinations can take several weeks to become effective so do not leave this until the last minute.

Recommended vaccinations include;

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Cholera
- Typhoid
- Polio
- Yellow fever (depending on your country of departure)
- Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)
- **As you will be working with animals the tetanus and rabies vaccinations are essential**
- Malaria prophylaxis is also highly recommended.
- Proof of TB vaccination or proof of a negative TB test is also a requirement for all volunteers working with the chimps at Chimfunshi

Other common medical concerns include:

Malaria: is caused by a mosquito borne parasite and is endemic in Zambia. One can contract malaria at any time of the year and in virtually any area of Zambia. The best precautions are physical barriers in the early evenings and at night, long trousers and sleeves with a liberal application of repellent will usually do the trick. The incubation period for the malarial parasite is 12 – 14 days so the time to watch for symptoms is often after you return home. It is important to get treatment very quickly if you've contracted malaria so if you develop flu-like symptoms you should have a quick and simple blood test without delay. It is important to consult your doctor prior to your trip, they will prescribe a course of prophylactics.

The Sun: The African sun can be very strong and sunburn can occur through clouds and even a light T-shirt. Be sure to use sun cream and wear a hat.

De-Hydration: in a mild form can be fairly common in the hotter months. The key is to keep body fluids up by drinking plenty of water, if nausea or vomiting results then medical attention should be sought. (It may be advisable to include a couple of packets of re-hydration salts in your first aid kit)

Diarrhoea: a common problem when travelling anywhere in Africa as it is not uncommon for individuals to react to a change in diet or water. Be sensible about what you eat and drink and bring suitable medication just in case. Although tap water is safe in Zambia, it is recommended to drink bottled water as a precaution.

We recommend that you visit some of the websites listed at the end of this pack for practical travel advice and more of an idea of what to expect.

Travel Insurance

It is essential that you obtain comprehensive travel insurance for this project that will cover you for working with animals (and preferably one that includes air evacuation) WVS recommends Go Walkabout as they offer tailor made policies specifically for WVS volunteers.

Website: www.go-walkabout.com (click on the WVS button on the right hand side)



Telephone: 0845 345 0327

Email: wvs@go-walkabout.co.uk

Members of WVS can also obtain a discount on this policy – please contact the WVS team on info@wvs.org.uk to obtain the discount code.

Please note that only volunteers starting their journey from the UK can obtain a policy with Go Walkabout.



Passport & Visas

To enter / depart Zambia you will require a passport with at least 6 months minimum remaining before expiry and at least 2 remaining blank pages side by side.

When going through immigration at Ndola airport you will be asked to complete a form indicating whether you want a business or tourist visa. You should select tourist visa and this will enable you to stay in Zambia for 30 days. The cost for the tourist visa is 50 US\$ and you will need to pay for this in cash.

US and European passport holders can obtain this visa at the airport with no prior arrangements, however, for volunteers from other countries visas must be arranged ahead of time. (Check on www.zambiaimmigration.gov.zm for a list of countries and requirements)

Volunteer Fee – What's Included

The volunteer fee for this project is £1,800 / 2,000 euros per person. This will include:

- Accommodation
- All meals
- Transfers to / from the airport
- Donation towards the care of the chimpanzees and supplies for the project. (This is a non-profit project. All professionals collaborating on this project are giving their time free of charge and all instruments, materials and medicines remaining after the project will be donated to the Chimfunshi sanctuary)
- Working with and learning from specialists in wildlife medicine and conservation
- Once in a life time opportunity to get hands on practical experience with great apes
- Participant certificate

The fee does not include:

- Flights
- Beverages
- Excursions (these can be arranged at an additional cost and include Kafue River trip, a night out in Munchinshi village to experience Zambian culture and dance to local Zambian music, and safaris)



How to apply

To apply to take part in this exciting project please complete and return the WVS Trip Application form along with the following documents;

- An up to date copy of your CV (*including the contact details for two professional references*)
- A cover letter/email explaining why you want to take part in the project, what you hope to gain from taking part and any relevant experience you already have
- A signed copy of the Chimfunshi Healthy & Safety Rules document

Once you have been selected to take part in the project you will be sent an email confirming your placement and requesting an initial 50% deposit. This must be paid in order to hold your place on the project (no placements will be held until we are in receipt of your deposit).

This deposit is non-refundable – however, in the unlikely event that the project is cancelled all funds will be returned.

The remainder of the fee must be paid at least 3 weeks before the project start date.

Please note that we reserve the right to cancel this project if the minimum number of volunteers are not secured. Any volunteer fee/deposit will be refunded however, the charity will not be responsible for any cost to the volunteer caused by cancellation for example cancellation fees of flights, travel insurance etc.

Useful Links

www.chimfunshi.org.za	Website for the Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage
www.WVS.org.uk	Website for the Worldwide Veterinary Service
www.pasaprimates.org	Website for the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance
www.wildvets.com	Website of Wildvets
http://www.fortworthzoo.org/	Website of Fort Worth Zoo
www.lstmliverpool.ac.uk	The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
http://www.egzac.org/	EAZA group on zoo animal contraception
www.lonelyplanet.com	Useful travel website with specific information by Country
www.mdtravelhealth.com	Useful website for information on travel vaccinations
www.kayak.co.uk	Flight comparison website – compares prices from all airlines
www.go-walkabout.co.uk	Website for Go walkabout travel insurance
www.diversitytravel.co.uk	Website for Diversity Travel
www.fco.gov.uk	Foreign & Commonwealth Office for specific information by Country
http://www.janegoodall.org/programs/tchimpounga-chimpanzee-rehabilitation-center	

