

## Veterinary Experience Programme



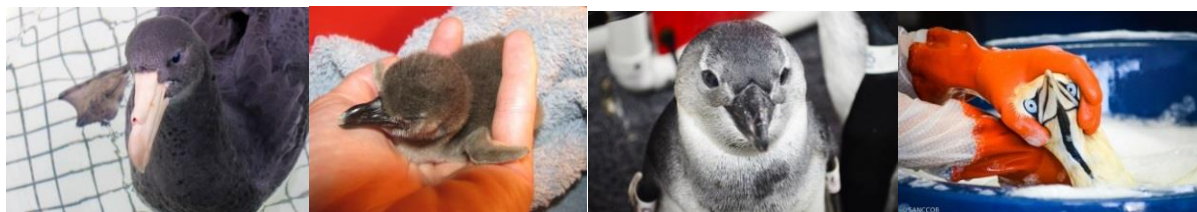
**The Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB)** was established in 1968 and is a non-profit organisation whose primary objective is to reverse the decline of seabird populations through the rescue, rehabilitation and release of ill, injured, abandoned and oiled seabirds – especially endangered seabirds like the African penguin. Over the last 50 years, SANCCOB has treated more than **100 000** seabirds and independent research confirms that SANCCOB's oil spill response actions alone have increased the African population by **19%**. In a non-spill year, SANCCOB treats up to **2 500 seabirds**, of which approximately **1 500** are African penguins.

### Programme description

The Veterinary Experience Programme has been developed to expose participants to a career in veterinary medicine. While SANCCOB is not a typical veterinary practice, participants will nonetheless benefit from the opportunity to observe the clinical veterinary work in this world-renowned seabird rehabilitation centre. The programme is only offered at the Table View centre in Cape Town, South Africa.

Participants will be required to work during normal business hours, namely Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. The programme involves daily supervision and instruction from a qualified clinical veterinarian. Due to the nature of our facility, the veterinarian may on occasion engage in activities which do not constitute clinical veterinary care. During those periods participants will have access to veterinary textbooks, research papers and veterinary standard operating procedures for self-study.

Only one participant will be accepted into the programme at any given time to ensure the most beneficial experience for the participant.



### Areas of instruction

Participants will be exposed to hands-on experience in a variety of areas, including:

1. Clinical evaluation of basic treatment of seabirds
  - a. Physical evaluation (body condition, hydration, chest assessment, presence of wound etc.)
  - b. Discussion of drug choices and different treatment options
  - c. Taking blood sample
  - d. Intramuscular injections
  - e. Subcutaneous injections
  - f. Lab evaluation (decision making involving blood results and faecal smears)
2. Microscope work
3. Post-mortems
4. X-rays
5. Anaesthesia
6. Wound care
7. Advanced surgery: endoscopy, fracture repair, enucleation (*case dependent*)
8. Weekly health check and set up of plan for individual cases

### Level of involvement

ONE WEEK participant	TWO WEEK participant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Observe during clinical evaluation of basic treatment of seabirds</li> <li>- Microscope work (practice smears) – depending on the level of experience/background</li> <li>- Assist during Post-mortem evaluation</li> <li>- Assist in taking X-rays and evaluation</li> <li>- Observe anaesthesia (2nd person as monitor)</li> <li>- Observe wound care (evaluation, procedures and bandaging)</li> <li>- Observe advanced surgery: endoscopy, fracture repair, enucleation (depending on cases)</li> <li>- Discuss weekly health check and set up of plan for individual cases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assist in clinical evaluation of basic treatment of seabirds (incl. taking blood sample, Intramuscular injections, Subcutaneous injections)</li> <li>- Microscope work – depending on the level of experience/background</li> <li>- Assist during Post-mortem evaluation</li> <li>- Assist in taking X-rays and evaluation</li> <li>- Assist basic procedures under supervision of clinical veterinarian</li> <li>- Assist during wound care (evaluation, procedures and bandaging) under supervision of clinical veterinarian</li> <li>- Observe advanced surgery: endoscopy, fracture repair, enucleation (depending on cases)</li> <li>- Discuss weekly health check and set up of plan for individual cases</li> <li>- Prepare a presentation on an interesting case/area of seabird veterinary work observed at SANCCOB</li> </ul>

## ***Programme types and costs***

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The degree of veterinary experience of each candidate will determine the programme available to them.

### **International Participants**

- Students in their pre-clinical year of Veterinary science studies or are interested in a career or studies in veterinary science may apply for the **one-week Veterinary Experience Programme**.
- Qualified veterinarians, vet nurses or technicians and students in their clinical years of study may also apply for our **two-week Veterinary Experience Programme**.
- **Cost:**
  - One-week programme – R1375
  - Two-week programme – R2750

### **Local Participants**

- South African citizens, aged 17 years or older, who have an interest in veterinary sciences and intend on pursuing a career in this field may apply for our **one-week Veterinary Experience Programme**. There is a maximum of six positions available throughout the year and the programme will be run during school holidays. No experience is necessary.
- Local veterinary students in their final year of study may apply for our **two-week Veterinary Experience Programme**.
- **Cost:**
  - One-week programme – R500
  - Two-week programme – R1000

To apply, applicants should complete an application form and send it, along with a motivation letter, to [volunteers@sanccob.co.za](mailto:volunteers@sanccob.co.za).

Thank you for your interest in our programme. If you have any further queries or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

We look forward to welcoming you to SANCCOB.

Warm regards

**Angela Wilmot**  
**SANCCOB Volunteer Coordinator**  
**Email: [volunteers@sanccob.co.za](mailto:volunteers@sanccob.co.za)**

*SANCCOB is a non-profit organization (Registration No. 2001/026273/08, Non-profit Number: 003-134 NPO).*