

Position Title	WILDLIFE VETERINARIAN (VOLUNTARY)
Terms of Contract	6-month placement
Location	Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, Sabah, Borneo

Background

We are offering an exciting opportunity for a volunteer veterinarian to join the team at Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre in Borneo for a term of 6 months. The role will involve health checks for orangutans and other wildlife, emergency operations in the field to assist animals in distress, a high standard of husbandry and care for recovering individuals and welfare assessments for a range of native species. This role is sponsored by Orangutan Appeal UK.

Orangutan Appeal UK is an orangutan conservation charity based in the UK that has been supporting the work of Sepilok for over 20 years. We currently indirectly employ 11 members of Malaysian staff at the Centre, including a wildlife veterinarian.

Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre is a wildlife rehabilitation centre owned and run by the Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD). It is located in the Malaysian state of Sabah on the island of Borneo and was established with the aim of rehabilitating orphaned and injured orangutans and returning them to the wild. Today around 60 to 80 orangutans are living independently in the reserve and approximately 25 orphaned and displaced orangutans are housed in the nurseries.

Job Highlights

We are offering an exceptional volunteer role for a veterinarian who has a strong interest in the welfare and preservation of Borneo's native wildlife. This position presents a unique chance to contribute to the conservation efforts of the critically endangered orangutan. Candidates must have a high level of enthusiasm for working with orangutans and demonstrate a good understanding of their anatomy. The successful applicant will be rewarded with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn from and work alongside some of the most dedicated and experienced orangutan experts in the world.

Job Description

We are looking for a qualified veterinarian who is able to conduct and assist on all diagnostic and surgical veterinary procedures and examinations on rescued animals at the Centre. These include aspects such as conducting general health checks, medicating of the animals, treatment of injuries and faecal examinations (parasitology). Skills in sedation, induction, intubation, monitoring, basic suture skills, basic diagnostic skills, placing IV, SQ/IM/Oral medication experience is also required.

Experience with pain medications, sedations, general procedures, animal after-care and husbandry is also desirable.

You may also be required to assist on field operations such as animal rescues and necropsies in partnership with various organisations affiliated with SWD.

Main Responsibilities

- Completing tasks to a high standard as instructed by the SWD and Orangutan Appeal UK vet.
- Husbandry and care of all animals pre, post, and during any veterinary care.
- Ethical and responsible management of drugs, anaesthetic and medical equipment.
- Implementation of emergency protocols and supervision of care to animals involved in any operation.

- Conducting medical checks and monitoring the rehabilitation process of animals to ensure optimal recovery.
- Preparing and keeping complete and concise medical reports.

Skills

Essential

- DVM degree from an accredited university in Veterinary Medicine
- A minimum of 2 years work experience as a vet
- Proficiency in diagnostic imaging and basic surgery
- Strong working knowledge of current standards of veterinary care and general husbandry and veterinary management of common zoological species
- Strong time management skills to prioritize resources effectively required
- Ability to apply critical thinking in problem solving required
- Ability to work as part of a team as well as independently
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English
- Willingness to work long hours, weekends, over-night (when required) and be on standby
- A high level of physical fitness to perform physically demanding labour in extremes of weather and challenging physical environments
- Strong work ethic, ability to work effectively under pressure, approachable demeanour, professional conduct and adaptability to a range of people, environments and situations
- Respect for the culture of Sabah

Desirable

- Previous experience in a management/leadership role.
- Minimum of one-year prior experience working with wildlife in a centre, zoological or wildlife park
- Hold a valid international driving license

Salary / Funding

This is a voluntary position. Applicants are to cover their own travel expenses, including international and domestic flights and travel, as well as fees for applicable work permits. All vaccinations, boosters and relevant medications are to be paid for by the applicant. You are required to purchase your own health and travel insurance. Shared accommodation will be provided.

The successful applicant must obtain a work permit from the Immigration Department of Malaysia and a temporary practising permit (TPP) from the Malaysian Veterinary Council prior to departure, prior to departure.

To Apply

Position will be open until filled. Anticipated start date asap.

Interested applicants should email a CV, cover letter and two letters of recommendation to manager@orangutan-appeal.org.uk

Please detail your reasons for applying, how your experience and skills align with the requirements, and your availability.