

# **Zanzibar Animals Affection Society (Z.A.S.S.O)**

## **Volunteer Program**

ZASSO is situated in Zanzibar, Tanzania just off the East Coast of Africa on a tropical island in the Indian Ocean.

### **Our Mission Statement**

Zanzibar Animal Affection Society (ZASSO) is a Non-Governmental Organization that advocates Animal rights and fair treatment to animals in the Isle. The establishment of ZASSO is a result of ten people who decided to come together to raise their efforts to fight animal mishandling, torture, harassment and overloading. ZASSO will aim to collaborate and cooperate with other organisations, Public and Private Institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations to bring about Animal Well-being and Welfare in the Zanzibar Society. Its vision shall be to make Zanzibar a conducive environment with the society respecting and observing animal rights, treating animals with love and affection and stop animal cruelty.

### **Our Aims and Objectives**

1. Provide the community with education on Animal Rights (animals have a right not to be mishandled)
2. To eradicate the street animals (dogs, cats, cows, donkeys and many others).
3. To stop animal overloading, beating, mishandling and animal cruelty.
4. Provide education awareness encouraging affection and love of animals.
5. To initiate ZASSO development projects aimed at encouraging the active participation of the community in the process of self empowerment.
6. To mobilise funds both local and internationally for Zanzibar Animals Affection Society development.
7. The society shall operate exclusively for charitable social welfare of animals.
8. The creation of a pool of volunteers as a source of trained manpower to serve in specific areas.
9. Establish care, support and animal protection services to suffering animals in Zanzibar and Pemba.

## Our Work

ZASSO has a purpose built clinic with kennels, cattery and also paddocks for the donkeys. At any one time we have dogs, cats, cows and donkeys which are resident. Some of our residents are waiting to be rehomed or are living with us permanently.



Our purpose  
built clinic

On Saturday mornings we operate an open clinic. This is usually attended by the local people with their livestock, dogs, cats and sometimes a more unusual patient like a monkey.



Waiting to be seen at  
Saturday Clinic.

Almost all of our other veterinary consultations are carried out at our 'clients' houses therefore we are often 'on the road'. We rarely have much detail regarding the nature of the animals' problem and we are often asked to neuter animals once there. We have to be prepared for every

eventuality and be proficient at working 'in the field'. These days can be long but also very rewarding.

An operation being carried out at a client's house



We also carry out neutering and vaccination campaigns. Conditions can be very challenging and we have to adapt quickly to overcome any obstacles that prevent us achieving our goal.



Neutering campaign carried out in difficult conditions. Poor lighting and limited space are just two of the problems we had to overcome on this neutering campaign.

**Are you ready for a challenge?**

**We are accepting selected volunteers on an ongoing basis.**

**Veterinarians, Veterinary Nurses,**

We offer you the opportunity to;

- Live and work in rural Africa.
- Experience all aspects of life on Zanzibar.
- Be actively involved with the work of the ZASSO Veterinary and management team.
- Gain veterinary knowledge in the field of tropical diseases and their treatment.
- Gain veterinary knowledge of field surgery set up and implementation.
- Help promote and raise awareness of animal welfare issues within the community.
- To complete a personal project either academic or practical.
- To be valued as part of a committed, passionate, caring, supportive and happy team.
- To have regular leisure time to enjoy the Indian Ocean and all that Zanzibar and the Tanzanian mainland has to offer. (Tanzanian mainland long term volunteers only).
- To help influence the next generation of students from both Europe and Tanzania
- To help introduce new practice methods and influence the existing protocols.

## **Volunteer Requirements**

### Essential

- A flexible, resourceful personality that can embrace new experiences.
- Must be comfortable with being a member of an interdependent community but also confident to be independent when necessary.
- The ability to 'think outside the box', use your initiative and find alternative routes to reach your goals.
- Highly committed to your placement but also realistic in your expectations.
- Physically and emotionally robust.

### Preferred

- Veterinary background.
- Degree in animal science.
- Previous experience of visiting/ travelling in Africa or long haul destinations.
- Computer literate

- Minimum age 18 years
- International driving licence

## **Your Volunteer Placement**

A member of the ZASSO team will meet you from Zanzibar airport and you will be given 24hrs to recover from your journey, acclimatise and to familiarise yourself with your new surroundings. We will also give you an information pack and spend time going through it with you.

We aim to tailor your placement to take into account your qualifications, experience and the expectations that you have. This will be discussed prior to your placement at ZAASO

Regardless of your role, we will require you to help with everyday animal and house maintenance and also to assist with educational visits to schools and the wider community.

You will work a minimum of 6 hours a day when onsite, however this can be longer when going on house visits or assisting in a neutering campaign.

You will have one and a half days off per week and if you are on a long term placement, holidays as agreed by management.

## **Costs Involved**

Your travel costs from home, to and from Zanzibar Airport.

Your accommodation at ZASSO at \$20 per night.

Your day to day living expenses.

Your working visa which is \$200 for up to three months and \$550 for up to two years

Your tourist visa which is \$50 upon entering Tanzania

Zanzibar driving license 10,000 TSh

## **Things you need to know**

You will need to consult your doctor or travel clinic for the most up to date information on vaccinations and malaria prophylaxis. **It is compulsory to produce proof of having a yellow fever vaccination upon entry into Tanzania.** If you do not have it the authorities will vaccinate you at the airport and charge you \$50!

Zanzibar is primarily a Muslim country and this is something to keep in mind when packing for your visit. It is advisable to be aware and respectful of the local culture and therefore a certain dress code should be followed when in the villages and on site. Long trousers or skirts should be worn to cover below the knee, for both men and women, along with covering your shoulders for women. Shorts can be worn on the beaches but not within the village boundaries.

Power cuts are common but don't usually last long. Also our water wells can be too low for the pumps to send water to the storage tanks so we always have water stored in large buckets in our bathrooms, just in case!

It is not easy to get or use the internet in Zanzibar. Your high tech electronic equipment should not be relied upon as a means to communicate. It is best to get your phone unlocked before arriving in Zanzibar so you can get a local SIM card or bring a cheap second phone to use with a local SIM.

We are rural and there are no shops, restaurants or bars within walking distance. ZAASO is about half an hour by bus (dalla) from the main town Stone Town. The dallas run very regularly from the end of our drive and cost 500Tsh each way! We often go into town to buy supplies so you can sometimes get a lift in our vehicle.

Zanzibar has a tropical climate. It has high humidity and the temperature is between 28 - 30 degrees C. April, May and June is the rainy season and you will need to bring wellingtons! The rest of the time we advise loose fitting cotton trousers and t shirts and of course shorts for the beach!

American dollars are widely accepted in Zanzibar and there are plenty of ATM's in Stone Town. Traveller's cheques are NOT readily accepted.

### **Our Accommodation**

ZASSO is situated in the middle of a spice farm. The manager's house is separated from the clinic and animal accommodation by an area of common land. It takes several minutes to walk between the two sites.

We have three areas of accommodation. One large bungalow at the clinic site and two smaller bungalows at the manager's site.

We are able to accommodate, singles, couples and groups of friends in our traditional accommodation.

**Bungalow 1** (situated at the clinic site) Suitable for groups of friends.



Two double bedrooms both with their own shower rooms and toilets.

A shared kitchen, with fridge and gas hob. A shared sitting room.

Bedding, towels, electric fans and mosquito nets are provided.

**Bungalow 2** (situated at the managers site) Suitable for couples.

Large bedroom with own shower room and toilet. An area within bedroom to make a sitting area. Attached separate kitchen, with fridge and gas hob (Shared with bungalow 3). Own veranda. Bedding, towels, electric fan and mosquito net are provided.

**Bungalow 3** (situated at the managers site) Suitable for singles

Bedroom, shower room and toilet. Own veranda. Fridge. Bedding, towels, electric fan and mosquito net are provided. The kitchen is situated at bungalow 2 and has its own separate entrance.

Bungalows 2 and 3



Far left is the managers' house. In the middle, bungalow 3 and on the right bungalow 2.

If you are still interested in applying for a volunteer placement, please send your CV with a covering letter, giving the reasons why you wish to come. Please address it to the centre manager Danielle.