

RHINO CONNECT

VETERINARY ● PROGRAMME



Project information

PRESENTED BY
RHINO CONNECT AND PARTNERS

African Wildlife Veterinary & Conservation Program

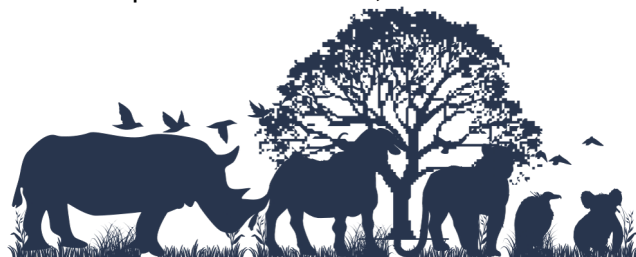
Experience True Wildlife Medicine and Conservation

We invite students and professors to participate in an exclusive, hands-on Veterinary and Conservation Programs in Africa. Our program offers an unparalleled opportunity to contribute directly to critical conservation efforts while gaining practical veterinary and field experience.

Program Highlights

Activities: due to the true nature of our wildlife work no two programs are the same, however there are some activities which do readily occur on all trips due to the need for data collection and conservation upkeep.

- *Regular procedures*
 - o Horn trimming procedures – on properties struggling with poaching , involves darting, DNA sampling, microchipping and treating injured rhinos. Mainly bullet wound injuries.
 - o Rhino ovum pick up – Research partnership with **Rhino Repro** investigating IVF (one of only two research groups worldwide on Rhino IVF)
 - o Rhino semen collection - Research partnership with **Rhino Repro** investigating IVF
 - o Rhino blood collection for rhino blood bank – **Rhino 911**
 - o Training course with Anti-poaching K9 unit
 - o Daily farm duties – daily physical exam of K9 unit, caring for any orphans, caring for hospital inpatients, feeding and medicating sanctuary rhinos
 - o Dart training and pharmacology lecture - Drug dose calculation and darting theory which students can directly apply when participating in species relocation procedures.
- *Other Wildlife procedures*
 - o Cheetah relocation
 - o Lion vasectomy for conservation efforts in eliminating captive breeding
 - o African painted dog relocation
 - o Elephant darting for tracking collar fitting
 - o Rhino darting for tracking collar fitting
 - o Buffalo relocation
 - o Sable, wildebeest, Oryx and other antelope relocation
 - o Care of rescued big cats – tiger/lion cub rescue from illegal pet trade
 - o Emergency response – injured wildlife, rescue of orphan rhino calves, first response poaching survivors.



Living Experience

Participants live on a private rhino sanctuary, home to rescued, orphaned, and rehabilitating rhinos. This environment allows for daily involvement in veterinary care, conservation projects, and sanctuary operations.

Program Details

- Cost: \$3,200 USD per person
- Inclusions:
 - ✓ Accommodation on-site
 - ✓ Three daily meals
 - ✓ Welcome package
 - ✓ In-country transport
 - ✓ Direct funding towards veterinary and conservation procedures
- Exclusions:
 - ✗ Flights
 - ✗ Travel insurance
 - ✗ Additional weekend activities
 - ✗ Extra meals beyond those provided



Why Choose Our Program?

This is more than just a veterinary placement — Our not-for-profit organisation gives the opportunity to be a part of groundbreaking conservation work, with hands-on involvement rarely available elsewhere in the world.

We would love to partner with your university to create life-changing experiences for students and faculty alike.

Contact Email: Megan@rhinoconnect.org
Mobile: +61 426 212 634
Website: <https://www.rhinovetstudents.com/>
Instagram and Facebook: [Rhinoconnectveterinary](#)



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Reviews from our Students



Leah ★★★★★

Amazing trip! Rhino connect and their team were incredible. They all had so much passion and knowledge on everything conservation and made the 2 weeks trip unforgettable. Appreciate all the effort and support to ensure we had the best experience.



Morgan ★★★★★

It is hard to talk about the Rhino Connect program without using cliches - but it genuinely is life-changing. To be a part of something bigger than yourself, to actively contribute to conservation and change for the better, to make lifelong friends, to learn about exciting scientific innovation, and of course (the best part) - to work up close and personal with some of the most incredible creatures on the planet. Rhino Connect doesn't just show you wildlife conservation, it they make you an active part of it. I would go back 1000 times again if I could. Thank you to the entire team for making this dream possible.



Ting ★★★★★

Going to South Africa with Rhino Connect and Megan was such a wonderful experience! It opened me up to so many different wildlife species and the perspectives around conservation and securing animal populations for future generations. Not only was the experience itself amazing, but the people I met while on this trip moved me with their passion and resilience.

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Reviews from our Students



Alex ★★★★★

My friends and I embarked on a life-changing experience during our mid-semester break - a two-week veterinary conservation trip to South Africa with Rhino Connect. It wasn't just a vacation; it was an adrenaline-fueled journey deep into the heart of rhino conservation.

One moment we were learning about the devastating poaching crisis aiding in the training of canine anti-poaching units, the next we were part of a ground team assisting with a darted rhino from a helicopter! The rush of ensuring the rhino's well-being while performing routine horn trimmings and blood collection for the rhino blood bank was a unique and unforgettable experience.

But the learning didn't stop there. We delved into the fascinating world of rhino reproduction, helping Dr. Morné de la Rey perform procedures such as ovum pick-up and semen collection from the bulls. All this to preserve the precious genes and future of the rhino population.

The incredible team at Rhino Connect deserves a special mention. Tersia and Kirsty In particular. Their expertise, passion, and dedication were truly inspiring. They made us feel like valued members of the conservation effort, not just students.

If you're passionate about veterinary medicine and wildlife conservation, especially rhinos, then this trip is for you! It's an eye-opening experience that will stay with you forever. You'll not only gain invaluable knowledge but also contribute directly to protecting these magnificent creatures.

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Meet the Team

Welcome!

Our Rhino Connect team is here to ensure you have a safe trip and a most enjoyable adventure.



Tersia Jooste

Tersia is a qualified Field Guide, NPO Founder, Keynote Speaker, accredited FASA Mediator, and expert wildlife conservationist with a decade of experience aimed at fostering awareness and spearheading initiatives to protect our heritage, safeguard the majestic creatures, and provide much-needed support to their caretakers



Dr . Megan Rawlings

Megan is a dedicated Veterinarian and Registered Veterinary Nurse in Australia, who brings a unique blend of medical expertise and a deep passion for conservation to the Rhino Connect Veterinary and Conservation Programs. Her journey in veterinary medicine has been fuelled by a profound commitment to animal welfare and a desire to protect our planet's most vulnerable species.

100% Committed to Wildlife Conservation

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Kirsten Baxter

Kirsten is a dedicated and highly skilled veterinary nurse who has devoted her career to caring for rhinos. As one of only two full-time veterinary nurses specializing in rhino care, she works tirelessly to provide critical medical attention to orphaned and injured rhinos. Her expertise, deep understanding, and unwavering commitment ensure that each animal receives the best possible care. With a wealth of knowledge in rhino rehabilitation and treatment, Kirsten is an invaluable part of our team and a true advocate for these incredible animals.



Primary Veterinarians

- Dr. Morne De La Rey
- Dr. Hendrik Hansen
- Dr. Christopher Boshoff
- Dr. Shaun Beverley
- Dr. Bart Liebenberg

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