

MAUN ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY



Protecting Botswana's wildlife through domestic animal care

Maun Animal Welfare Society
PO Box 335
Maun
Botswana

Registered Charity Number CR7388

www.maunanimalwelfare.com

www.facebook.com/4MAWS

Maun Animal Welfare Society

Volunteer Handbook

A guide to veterinary volunteering in Botswana

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INTRODUCTION

About MAWS

[Maun Animal Welfare Society](#) (MAWS) is a non-profit organisation which aims to improve the lives and health of domestic animals by providing free or low-cost veterinary services and educational programmes in and around Maun, Botswana.

We welcome vets and vet nurses year-round who travel to Maun to volunteer with us. From our purpose-built veterinary clinic in Maun we utilise our locally-raised funds to undertake routine sterilisations and administer vaccinations. We also provide life-saving emergency treatment or humane euthanasia to animals beyond help. Furthermore, we reunite, rehome and rehabilitate lost, found and stray animals and provide an emergency first-response service to injured livestock.

Our international funding allows us to conduct outreach clinics, specifically targeting rural areas where villagers live side-by-side with wildlife. Our outreach work brings vital veterinary care to remote locations and helps to prevent the transmission of rabies and canine distemper: diseases which can decimate wildlife including the endangered African Wild Dog as well as lions, leopards and cheetahs.

Our outreach work is endorsed by two internationally-recognised wildlife charities: [Botswana Predator Conservation Trust](#) and [Cheetah Conservation Botswana](#). Both organisations share MAWS' goal of controlling domestic animals so they do not encroach on or infect wildlife populations.

Project overview

The majority of our volunteers' daily work will focus on the sterilisation and vaccination of dogs and a small number of cats. When working at the Maun clinic, animals will be collected from the surrounding areas on a daily basis and temporarily kennelled until ready for surgery. No animals are operated on without permission; most are notionally owned but free-roaming.

Volunteers may also be asked to handle other conditions, depending on what arises. These include: dealing with a range of traffic injuries; administering treatment for transmissible venereal tumours; consulting on a variety of malnourished or ill-treated animals; attending injured livestock and recommending euthanasia where appropriate.

MAWS has a dedicated operating room in its Maun clinic, but outside of the town surgery may be carried out in the field under very basic conditions. All surgery will be carried out under injectable anaesthesia. All animals receive antibiotics and pain relief and are treated for internal and external parasites.

Volunteers will be expected to work hard; days will usually be around 8 hours in length (including breaks) but may be longer or shorter depending on what cases arise. There will be days off – usually Sundays – although some of these may be spent travelling, and there will be plenty of opportunities to see the area and enjoy the Okavango Delta.

ELIGIBILITY

Whilst we would love to be able to welcome veterinary students or recently qualified vets, conditions in Botswana can be extremely challenging. Our clinic does not use inhalable anaesthesia, and we have no X-ray facilities let alone the ability to do blood-work. Additionally, much of our work is done in the 'bush', and less experienced volunteers tend to find this a little overwhelming.

Furthermore, as a charity it is in our best interests to treat as many animals in as short a period as possible, and hence extensive surgical experience is vital.

Therefore we **usually** only accept the following (exceptions will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis):

- Veterinary surgeons with a minimum of **two** years post qualification experience or proven significant experience in spaying and neutering domestic animals
- Veterinary nurses with a minimum of **two** years post qualification experience

Although direct applications are possible we prefer applicants to first register with [Worldwide Veterinary Services](#), a veterinary volunteer charity which is based in the UK. WVS charges just £30 per year for membership and provides a wealth of information and support to potential volunteers, as well as removing much of the administrative burden from MAWS. WVS accepts international volunteers.

We generally prefer to host a maximum of three volunteers at a time – two vets and one vet nurse. However, we do make exceptions so if you wish to travel as part of a wider team, please let us know. Due to overlaps there may sometimes be occasions when there are three vets working at one time. This causes us logistical difficulties in sourcing the number of dogs required each day, so please understand that if this is the case during any part of your stay, one vet may need to temporarily step back from surgical duties.

Exceptions

On a case-by-case basis we will occasionally admit newly-graduated/inexperienced veterinary surgeons or veterinary students to our programme. In these cases, please note the following:

Veterinary students

You will be expected to work as a vet nurse. In addition to other general duties this will involve drawing up and administering drugs, prepping animals for surgery and monitoring them during/after surgery. You will be exposed to a large volume of animals and a wide variety of health issues which will be extremely beneficial to your studies. You will also be able to work very closely with highly-trained vets and should be able to enjoy a wealth of clinical experience and opportunities to watch numerous surgeries at very close quarters. However, please note that due to licensing restrictions you will be unable to gain any hands-on surgical experience.

Inexperienced veterinary surgeons

You will be accepted to the programme to work as a veterinary nurse, and on the whole your duties will be as per the veterinary students' role above. However, as you are a licensed veterinarian we will be able to apply for permits for you to practise veterinary medicine in Botswana. This means that – at the discretion of the supervising vet – you *may* be allowed to perform surgeries or undertake other clinical duties which will build on your skills. Please note that the supervising vet must inform a MAWS member in advance of the intention to allow you to operate, and permission will only be granted after these discussions are complete.

Documentation

Volunteer veterinary surgeons must apply for a temporary veterinary licence in order to volunteer on this project. The required documents can be **scanned and sent over email**, and are as follows:

- Veterinary degree qualification
- RCVS Certificate (or similar)
- A Letter of Good Standing from the RCVS (or similar)
- Registration letter (signed and scanned)
- **Colour copy** of Photo ID (passport photo page is preferable)
- Vet Council Registration Form **!NEW!**
- **Hard copy** passport photo **!NEW!**



IMPORTANT!

The Botswana Veterinary Surgeons Council has recently implemented a new registration procedure for volunteer vets, at a cost of P1,000 (approx. £75 / US\$120 / AU\$125 / €90). We are unable to absorb this fee and hence we respectfully ask all volunteer vets to pay the registration fee to **Tana** on arrival. Please note we will be unable to process your permit until we have received this fee.

Veterinary nurses **do not** require a temporary licence, but all volunteers will be expected to complete the [MAWS Application Form](#). Examples of the above documents are appended to this handbook. **Please note:** documents are needed as soon as possible to ensure that they reach the Botswana Vet Council in time to obtain the correct permissions. Certified translations must be supplied if not in English.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Understanding Maun

Maun comes as a culture shock to many of those who visit it. This curious little village (for despite its 60,000-strong population, Maun has not yet been bestowed 'town' status) is a strange combination of mud huts and luxury lodges; shanty shops and high-street retailers; poverty and wealth.

A frontier town for northern Botswana's huge wildlife reserves, the vast majority of the people in Maun work directly or indirectly for the country's safari industry. The unofficial colour of Maun is khaki – something you'll see for yourself when surrounded by crowds of tourists and safari employees, all dressed in shades of beige.

Maun's small expatriate population comprises people from all over the world, most of whom are employed on short-term contracts for their safari industry expertise. Nevertheless there are numerous Motswana-owned and operated safari companies and businesses, and you will find Maun is a wonderful melting pot of nationalities.

Botswana are extremely friendly by nature and are very willing to help, while a respectful *dumela* (hello) will go a long way towards encouraging a broad smile. However, there are certain cultural language differences which must be respected when working in Maun.

Swearing is generally taboo across the board in Botswana, but however provoked or cross you may be, DO NOT swear at a Motswana. Not only is this hugely offensive in the Botswana culture, but you could see your permit to work as a vet revoked by the authorities: swearing is not taken lightly.

Furthermore, never tell a Motswana that they are talking "rubbish" or being an "idiot" or "stupid". In Botswana culture this is translated literally and is taken as a direct insult. Again, not only will the Motswana in question be massively offended, but you may find yourself in a lot of unwanted and unintended trouble.

However, don't fret too much as it's very unlikely you'll ever find yourself in a position where you might have to curb your tongue. As mentioned, Botswana is a very friendly nation and 99.9% of your interactions will result in cheerful, happy and positive outcomes on both sides.

When to visit

We host volunteers all year round, but for your own comfort you may prefer to travel during specific times.

Winter – Dry Season - April to September

The days are dry, sunny, clear and warm while evening temperatures drop sharply. Day time temperatures generally reach 25° C and evening temperatures can be as low as 2° C and in some areas can plummet below freezing. Virtually no rainfall occurs during the winter months.

Summer – Rainy Season - October to March

In October the weeks preceding the coming of the rains tend to be the hottest with temperatures up to 40° C. Cloud coverage – and the arrival of the first rains towards the end of November or in early December – cools things down considerably. During the rainy period, which lasts until the end of February or early March, the days are hot and sunny in the morning with afternoon thunderstorms. Day time temperatures can rise to 38° C and night time temperatures drop to around 20° C - 25° C.

January: The middle of the rainy season comes complete with spectacular afternoon thunderstorms, high humidity and warm days (average 30° C plus) and nights (20° C plus).

February: Hot with daytime temperatures averaging above 30° C and warm nights at 20° C plus. There may be both wet and very dry spells within the month.

March: Temperatures are still warm – both day and night – but the air is drier and the rains less frequent.

April: The first signs that the season is changing – night temperatures drop to below 20° C on average but day temperatures continue to rise up to 40° C on some days. Generally the temperatures are very pleasant.

May: The rains are over and the nights are cooler with temperatures averaging 15° C. The days are still warm with temperatures up to 35° C.

June: Temperatures drop to their coldest by the end of June with night temperatures reaching as low as 0° C. Daytime temperatures rise up to a very comfortable 25° C and dusty dry conditions begin to dominate.

July: The nights are still cold but the days are marginally warmer and the weather typical of Botswana - sunny and clear with brilliant cobalt blue skies.

August: The weather is warming up with daytime peaks averaging closer to 30° C and night time averages rising to around 10° C.

September: Night temperatures rise rapidly within the month and by month end the average reaches 15° C plus and day temperatures soar well past 30° C. The sun shines, the skies are clear and it is really dry.

October: Daytime temperatures rise regularly above 40° C and nights are extremely warm with averages well past 20° C. This month is not for the fainthearted!

November: Temperatures remain high both day and night until the day of the first rains – normally around mid-November.

December: The rains become more regular with thunderstorms every few days. Temperatures have cooled on average but hot days still occur and nights are still warm and humidity can rise after rain.

How long to stay

This is very much up to you. Some of our volunteers have stayed for three months or more, but we realise that not everyone is able to stay so long! Veterinary permits (and tourist entry visas) are available for a three month period, which can be extended for another three months if required.

We recommend volunteers stay for a **minimum of two weeks**. This allows plenty of time to acclimatise to both the weather and the working conditions.

How to get here

Volunteers are responsible for the cost of and arranging their own flights, but will be met on arrival at Maun Airport by a MAWS representative.

It is **strongly recommended** that on your international flight to Botswana you carry a change of clothing (e.g. t-shirt and underwear), any prescription medicines and your valuables (e.g. documents, camera and wallet) in your hand luggage in case of lost luggage or luggage delays from connecting international flights.



Please also **DO NOT book your baggage straight through to Maun** – regardless of what you are told, if you 'transit' in Johannesburg your baggage will still end up on the carousel in Johannesburg Airport Arrivals. It will then miss your connecting flight and will take at least three days to track down. It is easier to go through Passport Control, collect your bags, head back up to Check-In and through Passport Control again for your flight to Maun.

Please ensure that you leave **plenty of time** between connecting flights as **Air Botswana has a poor punctuality record**, especially during low season. Please note that Air Botswana takes no responsibility for onward flight bookings if the tickets are not issued as through-fares (when the Air Botswana and Onward ticket is issued as one ticket). **SA Airlink** has been operating to Maun since June 2012, and so far has proved to be a **reliable service provider**.

We can tell you from experience that it is far nicer to spend several hours browsing Duty Free Shops than to race through the crowded airport in the hope that you make your connection – or worse, have to organise an expensive night in an airport hotel while you await the next flight. Travel insurance may cover the cost, but this does not outweigh the inconvenience.

Air Botswana

The majority of flights to Maun (MUB) originate in Johannesburg, South Africa ([JNB](#)). However, since June 2012 Air Botswana has been running a service from Cape Town, South Africa ([CPT](#)). This flight is marginally more expensive but it may benefit those who wish to add on some South African travel to their trip. For schedules and to book online, please visit: www.airbotswana.co.bw

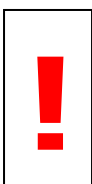
SA Airlink

While prices and schedules are largely similar to that of Air Botswana, we are currently finding that the reliability and punctuality of SA Airlink is a breath of fresh air in comparison to Air Botch. We therefore **recommend you book SA Airlink where possible**. For schedules and to book online, please visit: www.flyairlink.com/botswana

Visas & passports

Nationals of most countries receive an entry visa on arrival. These include most citizens of Europe and the UK, North America, South Africa and Commonwealth countries. Please check your status before you depart and for more information please visit:

www.worldtravelguide.net/botswana/passport-visa or www.botswanaturism.co.bw/entryFormalities.php



When completing your entry form on arrival in Botswana, please state that you are a **TOURIST**. The concept of volunteering is not widely understood by Immigration Officials and volunteering is often believed to be paid work. This means that you may be permitted entry for just a day or two until you can prove the 'real' purpose of your visit. Whilst we are able to provide documentation supporting your visa application, this is time consuming for us – and a major irritation for you.

Please use the following details as your address while in Botswana:

c/o Mrs Mervyn Palmer
1 Palmer Street, Disaneng Road
Matlapaneng Ward, Maun
Tel: +267 71 651 131

Most flights to Botswana originate in South Africa. **Please be aware that you MUST have two facing blank pages in your passport to enter South Africa.** This is very important; you WILL be refused entry if you don't meet these requirements, even if you are only transiting. For more information please visit:

www.southafrica.info/travel/documents/visas.htm

Please also note that if any of your own onward travel plans include spending time in or departing from Zambia (e.g. Livingstone Airport) then you will be required to show proof of Yellow Fever vaccination when arriving in South Africa, even if you are only in transit to your final destination.

Currency & costs

The currency of Botswana is the Pula, which means 'rain' in Setswana. At the time of writing (October 13), the exchange rate is as follows:

GBP 1	=	BWP 14	USD 1	=	BWP 8.6
EUR 1	=	BWP 11.6	CAD 1	=	BWP 8.3
AUD 1	=	BWP 8.0	ZAR 1	=	BWP 0.85

You will not need to bring a great deal of money with you as most of your in-country costs are covered by MAWS. However, to help you decide how much to bring, we have outlined some general costs below:

Pizza (restaurant)	BWP 80	Steak (restaurant)	BWP 100
Beer (pub)	BWP 20	Beer (liquor store)	BWP 8
Large glass of wine (pub)	BWP 30	Bottle of wine (liquor store)	BWP 40-60
Mosquito repellent	BWP 35	Soft drink can (Coke, Sprite etc)	BWP 6
Large packet crisps/chips	BWP 8	Large chocolate bar	BWP 15

Maun has several Bureau de Change offices and you should be able to change most major currencies and travellers cheques. Maun also has numerous ATMs (Barclays, FNB, Standard Bank etc.) which will dispense cash to most foreign card providers. Most supermarkets and some shops will accept debit and Visa/MasterCard credit cards (but NOT American Express).

You are unlikely to be able to change currency into Pula in your home country, so if you wish to bring cash with you we recommend US dollars or South African rand. Please note that debit/credit cards and foreign currency can be used in Johannesburg's OR Tambo Airport.

What to pack

Generally, casual comfortable clothing is suitable throughout the year. Layers of clothing are most practical for the fluctuating day/night temperatures of Botswana. There are no specific dress restrictions in Botswana, but please be respectful of your surroundings; relatively modest attire should be worn in rural areas. The most practical items to pack are:

- Sensible clothes to work in (e.g. scrubs)
- Long sleeves, long trousers and closed shoes to help prevent tick and mosquito bites
- Light clothing is preferable during the day especially during the summer months; e.g. t-shirts, shorts
- Light, compact raincoat is a good idea for the summer
- Fleece or sweater and a warm jacket due to colder nights during the winter season
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Natural, earthy or khaki toned clothes (to prevent any undue attention from wild animals)

Also bring:

- Sun block, lip balm, sunglasses, hat, swimsuit
- Insect repellent (extremely efficient insect repellent is also cheaply available in Maun)
- Camera
- South African plug adaptor (round pin)
- iPod or iPhone (the clinic and cottage both have iPod/iPhone 4 docking stations)
- iPad or laptop if you want to connect to the internet during your stay
- DVDs to keep you entertained during any nights in (the cottage has a TV/DVD but no TV signal)
- **DRIVING LICENCE** (if you have one)

Most airlines only allow you to bring 20 kg luggage plus 7 kg hand luggage. In peak season they are extremely strict so please ensure you double check your baggage allowance before you depart – and stick to it.

Donations

Veterinary supplies

If you are able to obtain donated veterinary materials (expired stock is very welcome!) we would be extremely appreciative. Our current wishlist is appended to this handbook: please contact us for advice if required. If you bring goods with you, please bear in mind that anything with a value of more than P500 is liable for customs duty. Even if the goods are out of date or were free and hence have no 'value', our overzealous customs team will want to charge you duty. Please therefore consider bringing a letter (original) stating their worth. If you have any queries, please [email us](#) for clarification.

Orphanage supplies

Many volunteers like to bring little gifts and educational supplies for the local children. While this is by no means mandatory, you may wish to look at the following website: www.banabaletsatsi.com

[Bana Ba Letsatsi](http://www.banabaletsatsi.com) is a Maun-based charity centre that supports more than 250 vulnerable, at-risk and orphaned children and youths. Some of the children which attend the centre have never been to school or dropped out early; others suffer physical and sexual abuse, abuse drugs and alcohol, work underage, beg and/or lack parental care. The centre offers a place of safety for education and counselling, providing food, medical attention, clothes, showers, training, haircuts and meeting any other needs encountered by the children.

Bana Ba Letsatsi needs the following items: Pencil cases, pens, pencils, rulers, erasers, band aids, surgical gloves, underwear for boys and girls 6-16 years old, flip-flops or sandals for boys and girls 6-16 years old.

Alternatively you may wish to bring pens, pencils or drawing books for the many children you will encounter during your outreach work: they would also be much appreciated.

Financial donations

We certainly don't expect financial assistance from our volunteers – most of whom already spend a small fortune on getting to Maun. However, occasionally our volunteers' clients, friends and families express an interest in helping out and hence we have included our banking details here:

BOTSWANA

Beneficiary: Maun Animal Welfare Society *Bank:* First National Bank of Botswana, Gaborone
Account number: 621 5722 7086 *Branch code:* 282 367 *Swift (BIC) code:* FIRNBWGX

Cheque donations must be drawn on a Botswana bank, in Pula only, made payable to MAWS, and posted to:
The Treasurer, Maun Animal Welfare Society, PO Box 335, Maun, Botswana

UNITED STATES

IRS registered (501(c)3) for tax relief purposes - **please specify that MAWS is the recipient**

Beneficiary: Wild Entrust International *Bank:* Bank of America, 800 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104
Account number: 13463401 *Swift code:* #BOFAUS3N (*foreign wire*) ABA: #026009593 (*domestic wire*)

Cheque donations must be made payable to Wild Entrust International, and posted to:
Wild Entrust International (c/o Gull Industries, Inc.), P.O. Box 24687, Seattle, WA 98124-0687

INTERNATIONAL

Make a secure online credit card donation from anywhere in the world using PayPal. Visit www.paypal.com, select *Send Payment* and enter our email address paypal@maunanimalwelfare.com to send funds.

All donations will be acknowledged if contact details are included.

Vaccinations & malaria prophylaxis

This information should be used as a guide only. **For up to date information on immunisations please consult your doctor.** You will need to allow plenty of time before travelling for your immunisations to be effective so DO NOT LEAVE THIS UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.

Rabies

All volunteers are expected to have received the rabies vaccination (pre-exposure prophylaxis) prior to their visit. However, this vaccination does not prevent rabies; it simply means that in the event of a bite from an animal with suspected rabies, the person bitten has 72 hours in which to receive an additional two injections (post-exposure prophylaxis) versus 24 hours and five injections for a non-vaccinated person.

We take all possible measures to prevent dog bites, and we expect our volunteers to also do their best to minimise the risk. Unfortunately, sometimes dog bites happen. If this is the case and you require additional emergency vaccinations, we will help you organise this but you will be liable for the cost of the vaccines. All volunteers are required to arrange travel and medical insurance which covers them for working with animals, and thus your insurance provider will be expected to cover these costs.

Other vaccinations

Tetanus, Hepatitis A, Polio and Typhoid are recommended.

If any of your own onward travel plans include spending time in or departing from Zambia (e.g. Livingstone Airport) then you will be required to show proof of Yellow Fever vaccination when arriving in South Africa, even if you are only in transit to your final destination.

Malaria

Northern Botswana is a malarial zone, therefore malaria prophylaxis (e.g. Lariam, Malarone, or doxycycline) is required and insect repellent is essential. Maun has a number of well-stocked pharmacies should you require.

Medical & travel insurance

Health care in Botswana is generally good but medical facilities and communications are limited outside urban areas. For serious medical treatment, medical evacuation (usually to Johannesburg, South Africa) may be necessary. Private hospitals will not treat patients unless they can pay in advance and health care may be expensive. Outpatients must pay cash before receiving treatment. Emergency patients will only be accepted if they have full insurance cover.

It is mandatory that you obtain comprehensive travel insurance for this project which covers you for working with animals. [Worldwide Veterinary Services](http://www.worldwideveterinaryservices.com) recommends the use of Go Walkabout: www.go-walkabout.co.uk

It is also advisable to have travel insurance which covers you for costs or inconvenience incurred as a result of late, delayed or cancelled flights. Air Botswana has a poor punctuality record and therefore there are occasions when delayed planes result in missed international connections.

ON ARRIVAL

Please make sure you **communicate ALL travel details and changes** to MAWS, as volunteers will be met at Maun Airport by a MAWS representative. Please also advise international flight details in case of delays.

On arrival you will be collected from the airport and taken to the clinic or your accommodation; a MAWS representative will talk you through orientation while answering any questions you might have.

Please also note (due to overlaps between volunteers leaving and arriving) that there may be days when the clinic is a little overcrowded. We try to avoid this as much as possible but the sheer logistics of volunteers' flight details means that you may arrive and find that for the first day or two, the clinic is operating beyond capacity. We apologise if this is the case during your visit but please ask you to take this time to familiarise yourself with our protocols... or to familiarise yourself with our committee member Mervyn's adjacent swimming pool, sun loungers and river view! Life is not always tough in Africa!

Accommodation

Dedicated self-catering accommodation is provided free of charge to international volunteers while they are working with us. Our **air-conditioned** three-bedroom cottage is situated within the fenced grounds of a MAWS members' property and is very safe and secure. It is on the same premises as the clinic.

Please note:

You will be expected to share your accommodation with members of the opposite sex, although opposite sexes will not be required to share a room. You will also be expected to keep the cottage and your room tidy and to wash your own dishes.

You will be extremely well looked after during your stay, and your lodgings include fresh **linen, laundry** and **ironing** facilities, plus general **cleaning**. Please nominate a member of your team who will be responsible for advising MAWS (in plenty of time) if food, cleaning items or toilet paper needs replenishing.

When on outreach accommodation will vary and volunteers should be prepared to camp if necessary. MAWS will supply camping equipment when required.

Food & beverages

MAWS will provide **self-catering** ingredients for breakfast, lunch and dinner as your accommodation has cooking and refrigeration facilities. Our Committee Members also provide home-cooked frozen meals to make life easier after a long day in the clinic.

Please note that much of the food is generously supplied by Maun's retailers. This means that we can't be too choosy as we have to take what we are given. As a cattle-rearing country, beef will feature highly on the menu, with the occasional chicken dish. As a landlocked country all fish needs to be imported at great expense and therefore, with the exception of canned tuna, we do not provide fish to our volunteers.

WHAT WE SUPPLY	WHAT WE CAN'T SUPPLY
Tea (Five Roses or Rooibush)	Decaffeinated or speciality tea
Coffee (Nescafe Classic)	Decaffeinated or speciality coffee
Water (filtered water)	Sparkling, soda or flavoured water
Biscuits	Other snack items e.g. crisps/nuts
Orange cordial (Oros)	Fruit juice – fresh or UHT
UHT milk (usually full fat)	Fresh milk, low fat/skimmed, Soya milk
Eggs	Yoghurt, other dairy produce
Margarine	Butter or low fat spreads
Bread and rolls (usually white)	Speciality bread e.g. low-GI or gluten-free
Sugar (brown or white)	Non-nutritive sweeteners e.g. Canderel/Splenda
Cheese (cheddar, gouda or processed slices)	Soft or speciality cheeses
Sandwich ham, salami	Bacon, speciality cooked meats
White rice	Brown or wild rice
White pasta (usually macaroni)	Wholewheat pasta, other types, gluten-free
Salad (lettuce, cucumber, tomato, peppers)	Imported salad items
Seasonal vegetables (potatoes, cabbage, carrots)	Imported vegetables
Seasonal fruit (apples, bananas, pears)	Imported fruit
Tinned tomatoes, baked beans	Other canned items
Canned tuna in oil/brine	Other fish (fresh, frozen or canned)
Ketchup, mayonnaise, salt and pepper	Chutneys, other condiments

Please notify us in plenty of time if you have any **specific dietary requirements**. These include, but are not limited to:

- Vegetarian / Vegan
- Diabetic / Allergies
- Avoidance of certain food/meat items for religious reasons

If you have **dietary requirements such as gluten/wheat/lactose intolerances** then please be aware that you may need to bring food items with you, or purchase them yourself in Maun. Please also be aware that these items are only stocked in a handful of Maun's supermarkets, and often run out quickly.

If you have any dietary queries please discuss these with your [volunteer application coordinator](#) (usually Ally) before you arrive.

Whilst we provide everyday provisions, volunteers should go prepared to pay for their meals if appropriate (e.g. if you go to a bar or restaurant).

Please nominate a member of your team who will be responsible for advising MAWS (in plenty of time) if the **self-catering food needs replenishing**. Tea, coffee, (plus reasonable amounts of milk, sugar and snacks) and bottled water are also provided. Unfortunately we cannot afford to provide soft drinks (e.g. coke or lemonade) free of charge to volunteers.

Transport

Clinic transport

MAWS owns two vehicles: a Nissan bakkie which is used by our staff for collecting dogs for sterilisation, and a Toyota Venture which is used by staff and volunteers to attend to emergencies and follow-ups around Maun. Please look after the vehicles – maintenance absorbs a considerable amount of our funds so we would be grateful if you take this into account when driving.

Personal transport

As the volunteers' accommodation is within walking distance of the clinic, general transport is not required. However, volunteers will have access to the Toyota Venture should they want to go shopping or sightseeing after hours, but you and your fellow volunteers will be responsible for putting fuel in the vehicle. You will also be responsible for splitting the cost of fuel fairly between your fellow vehicle-using volunteers. We work on a rule of thumb that fuel costs P2 per kilometre – please bear this in mind.



Please note that occasionally the Venture will be unavailable due to repairs or maintenance. Whilst we will endeavour to minimise its time off the road, we ask you to respect that undertaking repairs can be a lengthy process: parts may need to be ordered from South Africa or sourced from scrap yards, and to reduce costs we may call in favours from mechanics who are working out of hours. During these times we ask that outside of clinic hours you use Maun's taxis (at your own expense).

Liability

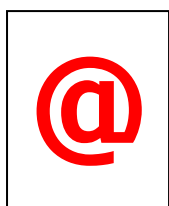
Our vehicles all have **third party insurance cover**, but please note that if you damage the vehicle you will be responsible for the repair cost. Knocking off a wing mirror or denting the bumper may seem like a minor issue, but for a charity with limited funds these repair costs can make the difference between us managing to pay salaries at the end of the month or not. Therefore we have to reluctantly insist that **"you bend, you spend"**.

Communications

MAWS has two dedicated mobile phones – one that is held by clinic staff (+267 73 573 774) and which acts as the main clinic phone, and one that is held by the volunteers (+267 76 499 440) so you can be contacted by MAWS members and vice versa.

You are welcome to pass these numbers to friends and family if they wish to contact you, but no international outgoing calls or SMS please! International phones should be able to pick up a roaming signal so your own phone should work. Urgent messages from friends/family can be passed on via info@maunanimalwelfare.com, usually within a few hours. Remind friends to visit www.facebook.com/4MAWS for regular MAWS updates.

Please note: many of the outreach clinics are performed in remote areas which do not have phone coverage.



There is a computer terminal with internet access at your accommodation: it is accessed by a USB dongle and is therefore very slow. The dongle contains a SIM card which must be recharged with data – this cost is not covered by MAWS and the data recharge will be the responsibility of the volunteer. We recommend that volunteers with smartphones should instead purchase a local SIM card in Maun (the SIM is just P10 and requires little in the way of registration) and use this for their data needs.

Maun has numerous cafes and restaurants which offer faster free/paid internet access but you will need your own laptop/iPad as very few internet providers have computer terminals. WiFi options include Motsana, Island

Safari Lodge, Kalahari Coffee Shop, PostNet, Barcelos, Wimpy, and more. A map is provided in the **Staying in Maun Handbook**.

Tourism opportunities

Having travelled such a long way to Botswana, we understand that volunteers are keen to see as much of the region as possible. A list of lodges and activities is provided in the **Staying in Maun Handbook** which you will find at your accommodation. Please note that this list is subject to frequent change, and costs will vary based on availability and season. General examples include: boat trips and sundowner cruises; mokoro excursions; and day trips to Moremi National Park.

You will have regular time off during your stay in which you can organise day trips (usually Sundays). If you are interested in taking a couple of days off in order to travel a little further afield we are happy to oblige, but we do ask that you give us sufficient notice to ensure patients are not brought into the clinic and appointments are not made (or can be easily postponed).

Please note the following:

- While we will help where we can, MAWS cannot be responsible for organising your activities.
- We will allow the Venture to be used as transport for local activities, but respectfully request that you do not expect to take it – or the Nissan – on longer journeys, particularly anything that involves driving through sand or water. Maintenance and repairs are one of our biggest expenditures and hence we have to be strict on this point.

We have approached a number of local lodges and activity providers to allow our volunteers preferential rates from time to time – these however are **NOT guaranteed**. Should you be lucky enough to receive preferential or subsidised rates then the following applies:

- During your visit you are still MAWS representatives and we ask that you behave accordingly.
- The cost of all alcoholic beverages consumed in the lodges will be your responsibility, even if the accommodation has been provided on a full-board basis.
- If you are offered a subsidised 'staff seat' rate on a plane, you must be aware that you **WILL** be bumped off the flight (and at short notice) if a full-fare paying passenger requires the seat.
- 'Staff seat' rates may mean you do not fly at the same time, on the same plane, or even on the same day as your travelling companion – if this is an issue you **must** book a full-fare flight in order to guarantee flight times. Chartering a private plane costs a minimum of P5,000 hence is not an option.
- You will be responsible for airport taxes incurred when leaving from Maun or Kasane (P50).
- If the lodge is accessible via tarmac road and we permit the use of the Venture, you will be expected to pay for the fuel required and parking or any other fees levied.

If you fly into the lodges it is likely you will find yourself in a small Cessna aircraft. In this case baggage restrictions are as follows: Each passenger is limited to one soft-sided bag, weighing no more than 20 kg, plus a typical sized camera bag. Bear in mind the door to the aircraft luggage pod is only 70 x 25 cm. Soft type duffel bags are ideal and indeed are required. These can be organised in Maun if required.

WHAT TO EXPECT

On arrival in Maun a MAWS member will collect you from the airport and take you to our dedicated clinic for orientation – please note that this introduction may be performed by another vet volunteer. At the clinic you will be shown the operating facilities and talked through what you can expect. For those arriving on late flights you will be taken directly to your accommodation, and settled in. Orientation will then happen the next day.

Please remember that none of our members have formal veterinary training so the drug protocols we discuss with you have been put together by our local private vets. We have a good working knowledge of veterinary protocols but will be expecting you to **respect our operating and anaesthesia procedures** which have been developed by very experienced welfare vets after intensive field research.

If you wish to make any amends to the protocols please discuss with Tana (MAWS Committee Member and Clinic Manager) for confirmation first. You may feel that your protocol is better for a variety of reasons but please respect the fact that our protocols have been put together by experienced welfare vets to also accommodate recovery, drug cost and availability.

Working hours will vary, but standard hours are 8am till 5pm, Monday to Saturday. It is likely that you will be able to finish earlier some afternoons but this is dependent on workload and emergency cases that may arise.

Detailed surgical and clinical information can be found in our **Clinic Orientation Handbook** – this will be sent to you once your application has been formally accepted.

Clinic facilities

MAWS has built a dedicated (and air-conditioned) operating room in the grounds of MAWS member Mervyn Palmer's house. It features two operating tables and most of the facilities you would expect from a basic clinic.

Outside of Maun, surgery may be carried out in the field under very rudimentary conditions. You will be required to work as aseptically as possible given the conditions - which may be challenging. Volunteers may find themselves operating under a baobab tree in the African heat, or enduring rain showers during surgery!

Clinic staff

KC is our Clinic Assistant and has been working with MAWS since 2012. Whilst KC's veterinary ability is limited to tubing animals, inserting catheters and sterilising the kits, he is an adept dog handler and will prove himself to be very useful during your stay. KC works full time at the clinic and participates in outreach trips where he is invaluable as your community liaison.

Max is our part time Dog Collector and has been working with MAWS since 2013. He supplies the dogs for kennelling the night before surgery and takes them home (suitably recovered from the surgery and anaesthetic) at the end of the following day. He is an excellent dog handler but has little veterinary experience. Max can comfortably supply 10-15 dogs per day.

Common diseases

The majority of dogs are affected by Ehrlichia (tick bite fever) and as a result will bleed more than usual. Do not underestimate this statement – **without fail** all volunteers are taken aback at how much the dogs bleed. Nevertheless, the volunteers soon get used to it and the dogs are rarely adversely affected by this blood loss.

Many animals have fly wounds, particularly on the ears, which may be infected. You may also see suspected cases of Parvo and distemper, alongside general issues such as anaemia, malnutrition, mange, old broken bones or dislocations, diarrhoea and vomiting, bite wounds and so on.



Cases of TVT (Transmissible Venereal Tumours) are also seen. The treatment consists of once a week **strictly IV** injections of Vincristine for 3-4 weeks. We are currently assisting the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute's TVT Cancer Genome Project, and will be expected to take samples (where possible) which will be sent to the UK for testing. More information is outlined in our **Clinic Orientation Handbook**.

Anaesthesia

Surgery will be carried out under injectable anaesthesia - usually Domitor, Ketamine, Diazepam or Thiopentone, but this may vary depending on what is available. All animals receive vaccinations, antibiotics and pain relief and are treated for internal and external parasites.

A table of the premed and anaesthetic protocol/dosages is detailed in our **Clinic Orientation Handbook**.

Surgery & suture use

The spay technique is up to you. We use Catgut to tie the ligatures and close with Nylon (Nylon 1 or 0 USP for the muscle layer/linea alba and Nylon 2/0 USP for the subcut and intradermal layer). We normally put a few skin sutures with the 2/0 Catgut. You can use any material available. There is occasionally donated Vicryl and PDS.

Unless dogs can be tattooed at the time of surgery – something we are currently looking into – or identified as neutered in any other way, please use non-absorbable suture material in the muscle layer so that spayed dogs can be readily identified. Occasionally (although it is rare), dogs are brought in for neutering that have already been neutered. Therefore we recommend that you check the linea alba for stitches and the scrotum for testicles during the weighing in the morning, BEFORE dogs are injected with any anaesthetic drugs.

Please don't use Nylon, Vicryl or PDS in the skin as we have had a lot of post-op problems with this.

Please work sparingly with the suture materials especially the catgut, as these are very expensive. As standard we use the following as it is all we can afford.

Chromic catgut (Kyron) or Medigut (Lakato) USP 0 / USP 1 / USP 2/0

Dafilon Blue (Kyron) or Monofilament Nylon (Lakato) USP 0 / USP 1 / USP 2/0

You are welcome to bring donated Vicryl or PDS, 0, 1 and 2 if you are able to source it. Please contact us for advice should you be able to bring in large quantities of donated materials. There is a supply of suture needles – large and medium-sized, triangular cutting and round-bodied. Please stretch out the life of these needles.

Recovery

The dogs recover initially on a blanket in the prep section of the clinic. While they are still under sedation we clip their nails and apply flea protection and wound protectant. The exception is cats; **do not use the flea spray on cats** as the product contains pyrethrens that are potentially toxic to cats. We have also stopped using Profendor on cats due to a number of adverse side effects.

WHY MAUN NEEDS MAWS

Maun is one of the largest towns in Botswana (population approx. 60,000) and serves as the country's tourist capital due to its location at the gateway to the world renowned Okavango Delta, a unique and unspoilt haven for wildlife.

Botswana's rural development depends almost entirely on the rich natural resources and wildlife for which the country is internationally recognised. However, these wildlife resources are severely threatened by uncontrolled domestic dog populations, through the spread of common infectious diseases and their unrestrained hunting of native wildlife.

Disease risk

There are numerous examples of the devastating impact that domestic dog diseases such as rabies and CVD have had on African wildlife. Unmanaged domestic dog populations have been named as the principal host for the rabies virus, which can affect all mammalian species (Baer and Wandeler 1987).

From 1991-1992 over three-quarters of the critically-endangered Ethiopian wolf population in Bale Mountain National Park died from a rabies outbreak introduced by uncontrolled domestic dogs (Sillero-Zubiri *et al* 1996). A vaccination programme was instigated but the arrival of an unvaccinated dog in the area led to another outbreak in 2003/4. It is believed that the dog was accompanying its immigrant owners in search of seasonal grazing for their cattle (Randall *et al* 2004).

A 1994 outbreak of CDV resulted in the death of around one-third of the Serengeti lion population, one of Africa's largest and best known populations of this iconic species. The epidemic spread to numerous other species of carnivore including hyena, leopard and bat-eared fox (Roelke-Parker *et al* 1996). This outbreak led to a study by Cleaveland *et al* (2000) which concluded that higher-density domestic dog populations were a more likely source of the CDV infection than lower density pastoralist dogs.

African wild dogs

Populations of the highly endangered African wild dog have been decimated by controllable diseases. In 1990/1 the entire African wild dog population of the Serengeti was wiped out. Although the exact cause of this catastrophe was not known, rabies and CDV have both been implicated (Burrows 1992, Macdonald *et al.* 1992, Alexander and Appel 1994).

Three years later a CDV outbreak led to the death of 10 African wild dogs in Botswana's Chobe National Park (Alexander *et al.*, 1996). Population numbers – already estimated to be less than 3,000 - were again severely affected in 1996 when a suspected rabies outbreak in Moremi Game Reserve killed over 100 animals in one month. Even captive populations are at risk if immunologically naive. Over a three month period in 2000/1 a captive breeding programme in Tanzania's Mkomazi Game Reserve lost 49 of its 52 African wild dogs through an outbreak of CDV (van de Bildt *et al.* 2002). Although there were no domestic dogs present in the reserve, the possibility of such animals being the source of the outbreak was not ruled out due to the potential for spread via human or fomite contact.

Hunting

Wildlife species are also at risk from hunting by feral dogs. In 2005, a large pack of feral domestic dogs ranging in Botswana's northern Haineveldt was dispatched by the Problem Animal Control Unit of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks because of the large number of kudu the dogs were killing in the region. More recently there have been reports of feral dog packs devastating populations of ground nesting birds around Lake Ngami. The Botswana Predator Conservation Programme (BPCP) states that "these problems are common, increasing, and devastating to wildlife in Botswana. The importance of domestic dog control for the conservation of all wildlife, and large carnivores in particular, cannot be overemphasised." As a result of this, and of the overwhelming success of the MAWS campaign to date, the BPCP "strongly endorse the programmes of domestic dog spaying and healthcare" and "urge all concerned to support these truly important efforts."

General benefits

The positive effects of the programme do not end with the benefits to local wildlife brought about by a reduction in population numbers and disease incidence: rural societies in the local area have also benefited, and will continue to do so as the campaign gathers pace.

Increased awareness of MAWS and escalating public demand has come about through the direct impact that sterilising a dog has on its owner and the community in general. Sterilised dogs are less inclined to roam in search of a mate or the extra food that is required to fuel the continual cycle of mating, pregnancy and lactation. This leads to a sharp reduction in road traffic accidents involving such animals. The dog's loyalty and usefulness to the homestead improves and it becomes a fully integrated member of the household, providing companionship and protection for its owners. In addition, the risks to human health presented by uncontrolled domestic dogs, particularly unvaccinated animals, are reduced.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Application Letter Template

[Vet Name]
[Vet Address]

The Registrar
Botswana Veterinary Surgeons Council
P/Bag 0035
Gaborone

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to apply for temporary registration to practice veterinary medicine and surgery in Botswana to assist Maun Animal Welfare Society in [MONTH, YEAR].

I can confirm that I will be working on a voluntary basis and that with this letter I have supplied photo ID, plus copies of my qualification and registration certificates.

Yours sincerely,

[SIGN HERE]

[VET NAME]
[VET QUALIFICATIONS]

Appendix 2: Example of an RCVS Certificate of Good Standing

RCVS (RCVS) Registered Veterinary Surgeons

Belgravia House 52-64 Horseferry Road London SW1F 2AF
T 020 7222 2001 F 020 7222 2001 E admin@rcvs.org.uk
www.rcvs.org.uk

Secretary & Registrar: Mrs J.C. Hill

World Wide Veterinary Services
14 Wimborne Street
Cranborne
Dorset
BH21 5PP

RCVS
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

NAME [REDACTED]

REGISTRATION NUMBER [REDACTED]

REGISTER ADDRESS
[REDACTED]
London
[REDACTED]

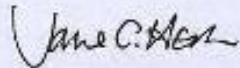
DATE OF REGISTRATION: 12/07/03

PRIMARY/REGISTERABLE QUALIFICATION: BVMS
UNIVERSITY: Glasgow


REGISTRATION STATUS
I hereby certify that the details above are contained in the Register entry for [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] is registered in the Register of Members maintained by the
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons under the provisions of the Veterinary Surgeons
Act 1966. This member was admitted to the said Register by virtue of having been
awarded the above degree which is a qualification recognized for the purpose of
registration under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 and which is a qualification
meeting the minimum training requirements set out in Article 38 and Annex 5.4.1 of
Directive 2005/36/EC. This entitles registration under Section 3 of the Veterinary
Surgeons Act 1966.

The current registration status of this Member is Home Practising

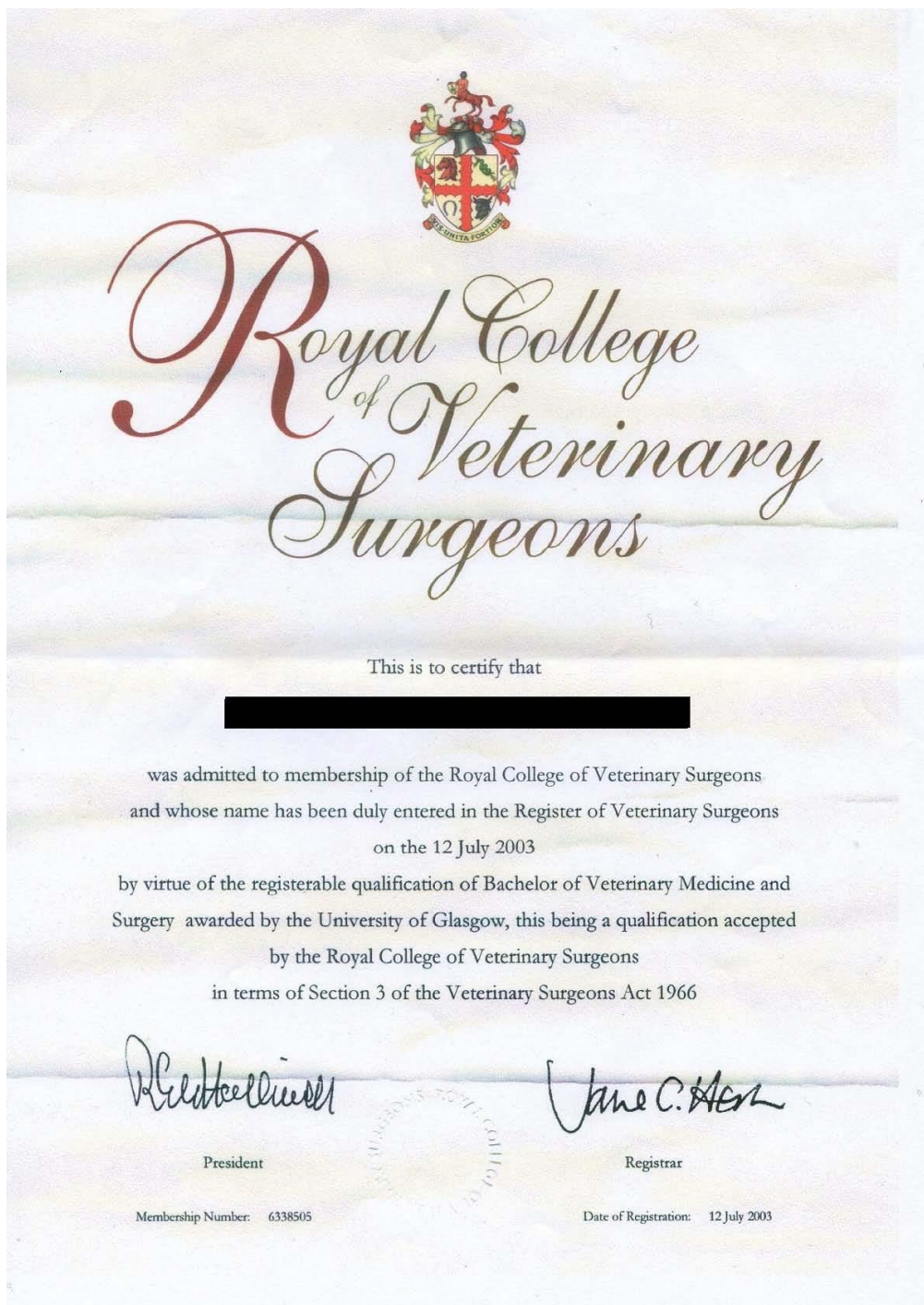
I know of no cause at the date of this certificate which might lead to the removal of the
above named from the Register and who to the best of my knowledge is in good
professional standing.


Secretary and Registrar

28 January 2011



Appendix 3: Example of RCVS Membership Certificate



Appendix 4: Donations Wishlist

GENERAL AND LARGE ITEMS

Vaccines (dog and cat)
 Olsen Hagar needle holders size 14cm / 16cm (Scissors including needle holder)
 Steriliser/Autoclave
 Compendium and formulary (updated one)
 Instrument Tape Identification
 Artery forceps - straight or curved, 12 or 14 or 16cm
 Spay hook
 Surgical clipper blade for a oster clipper
 Scissors for nurses and surgical scissors
 Leads and collars, muzzles
 Catch pole
 Vaccination cards
 Stat Spin Centrifuge
 Microhaematocrit tubes
 PCV reader (Plastic)
 Refractometer
 Electrocautery unit
 Eye kit (instruments): Retractors / Scissors / Forceps / Haemostats
 Dental Elevators
 Buprenorphine & book
 Digital thermometer

SMALL ITEMS

Needles 21G x 25mm TG Green
Needles 22G x 25mm TG Grey/Yellow
Needles 23G x 25mm TF Blue
Swabs 100 x 100 x 8
Surgical gloves size 6, 6½, 7, 7 ½ and 8
Syringes 1ml / 3ml / 5ml / 10ml / 20ml
Elastoplast (Help It Fab) 25mm x 50
Elastoplast 100mm x 10
Crepe Bandages 100mm x 20 and 50mm x 10
Soffban Synthetic - Orthopaedic Padding (for broken legs) 12 10cm x 3m
ET Tubes Size 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 5.5, 6, 6.5, 7, 7.5, 8, 8.5, 9, 9.5, 10
Vetrap 25mm and 100mm (Coloured bandage)
Barber Needle CVD CUT 12's # 10
Barber Needle CVD CUT 12's # 14
Barber Needle CVD RB 12's # 10
Barber Needle CVD RB 12's # 14
Suture Needles 3/8 circle cutting # 10 6's
Suture Needles 3/8 circle cutting # 14 6's
Suture Needles 3/8 circle Round Bodied # 10 12's
Crepe Band Blue - L 50 and L100
IV Cath N/W 20Gx32mm - No Wings Pink

IV Cath N/W 22Gx25mm - No Wings Blue
IV Cath N/W 24Gx20mm - No Wings Yellow
Chromic Catgut (Kyron) or Medigut (Lakato) USP 0 / USP 1 / USP 2/0
Dafilon Blue (Kyron) or Monofilament Nylon (Lakato) USP 1 / USP 2/0
Vicryl PDS, 0, 1 and 2

Dewormers Dogs/Cats & Puppies/Kittens
Tick and Flea Treatments Dogs/Cat & Puppies/Kittens (NOT PROFENDER)
Eye Ointments
Lacrilube
Vaseline/lube
Clindamycin
Ranclav
Nisamox 50mg tablets for cats and dogs / 250mg tablets for dogs
Synulox 500mg tablets
Ceporex Vet 50 tablets
Baytril 15mg / 50mg / 150mg tablets
Rimadyl 20mg /100mg tablets
Carprodyl 50mg / 100mg tablets
Any Anti-Inflammatory / Pain Relief Medication

Books and DVDs for the volunteer accommodation
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¹ Taken from 'Neutering to Conserve Africa's Endangered Wildlife' - Hannah Westen, International Projects Coordinator, Worldwide Veterinary Services