

Hello and Welcome to Helping Hands 4 Wildlife

Below are just a few rules to help everyone live together happily and safely during their time with us. If there is anything you don't understand or you think needs adding or amending then please speak to us!

Meals - All in the Restaurant

- **Breakfast**

Breakfast is eaten after morning feedings (anytime between 8 - 9.30am depending on the number of volunteers/animals at anytime). If you need coffee or breakfast before feeding then please ensure you get up earlier to do this. Morning feeding starts at 7.30am.

- **Lunch**

Lunch break is taken between 12 - 1pm. During the very hot summer periods this is sometimes extended to a 2 hour lunch period to avoid the heat of the day. If this is the case then we either start earlier or finish later in the evenings.

- **Dinner**

Dinner is eaten once the work for the day is over. Eddy will have a balanced meal ready and waiting for you between 7pm and 8pm but this will be communicated to you on each day. Should you have different dietary needs Eddy needs to have this information communicated.

Please help clear, wash dishes and pack away any uneaten food, wipe surfaces etc when you are finished in the kitchen. We have a big ant problem if food is left out and this in turn leads to spiders, cockroaches, rats, snakes.....

Any leftover meat is saved for the dogs meals the next day and any veggie leftovers (veg peels etc) is thrown into the compost dip at the end of the garden.

Volunteer Cabins

- The volunteer cabins is everyones responsibility. If you notice a problem (for example with the shower, taps, windows etc) we may not have seen it yet - please let us know. If you break something please let us know so it can be replaced.

- It is essential that the volunteer house is kept clean and this is the responsibility of all volunteers. If you need to put a rota in place for cleaning or allocate different areas to different people then that is fine. If there are issues with cleaning or certain people are not pulling their weight then please speak to us so we can try and resolve the situation. If you need cleaning materials, brushes, mops, cloths, toilet rolls etc please ask!
- Please be considerate to everyone staying in the cabins. There is limited hot water so consider doing a shower rota so everyone gets to shower first some days. Please be considerate with noise at night.
- Please keep the volunteer house doors shut during the day if nobody is inside. We do have a troop of wild monkeys and mongoose at the centre and if the door is open with food or treats on show they will not be able to resist temptation. We also have a very curious Dexter who loves to come inside and can make a big mess if he does!

Days Off / Trips

- Volunteers are allocated one day off a week. If you have come as a couple or as friends then wherever possible we will try and give you your days off together. However please be aware that at very busy times or in animal emergencies that may not always be possible.
- On your day off you can relax by the pool, visit the local waterfalls, hike the mountains or visit the resort with hot pools etc (please arrange a lift into Badplaas in advance). If you are using the pool please be aware that the lodge is a business that is being run independently. Please do not leave clothes and towels lying around up there and please be considerate if there are other paying guests from the lodge in the area for example letting them use the sun loungers etc. Please be professional at all times as you are representing Helping Hands 4 Wildlife.
- If you are staying for a while, it may be possible for you to join a trip to Nelspruit at some point as your day off. This is completely dependent on space in the car and the number of volunteers left at the centre. If this is something you are interested in then please let a member of staff know so we can look into arranging it.
- We are able to organize several excursion day trips to give you the best feel of our surrounding area. Please just ask us and we can by all means help. It is preferred to do group excursions rather than individual so talk to your volunteer group.

Laundry

- We have a facility to offer a laundry service but this is at an additional charge. Please enquire at Elize for a booking. Should you want to do your own washing, you would have to provide your own laundry detergent and liase with Elize when and where you may use the machines. You can make use of the washing line behind the kitchen area.

Staff

- People you will meet during your stay and the jobs that they do. Please note that everyone has their own work and may not be around doing the same work as volunteers all the time. However everyone is essential to the running of the centre in their own way.
- Nicky and Neil - own the lodge and wildlife centre and are involved in all aspects to a certain degree. Both Nicky and Neil are usually running around behind the workers and managing overall aspects of the centre but is also involved with the animals as much as possible.
- Elandre - Is mainly involved with the running of the rehab but is also very involved in the lodge and helps out wherever she can. Her mom and dad Elize and Andre contribute to maintenance, office work and problems that arise.
- Sizwe, Lucia and Precious - our local workers who keep everything running. They will be working with you at and passing you by on several occasions.

The Animals

The animals are obviously the reason we are all here and everything we do revolves around them. Our end goal is always to release every animal that is able to be released and therefore we do limit hands on contact wherever possible.

Daily Schedule

7.30am - Feeding all the animals that are presently in the centre.

8.30am - 9.30am - Breakfast

9:40am - 12pm - Cleaning, projects, enrichment, baby shifts etc

12pm - 1pm - Lunch

1pm - 3pm - Cleaning, projects, enrichment, baby shifts etc

3pm - 4pm - Feeding all the animals that are presently in the centre.

6pm - Babies to bed (baby season only)

6.30pm for 7pm dinner and own time.

This schedule is subject to change depending on season, number of volunteers, animal emergencies, extra bottle feeding shifts etc.

Please take your time during feeding - this is not a time to just throw food in and finish as quickly as possible. Please check to see if the animals are actually eating and to see if there are any signs of injury etc. PLEASE ALSO CHECK WATER BOWLS while you feed.

Baby shifts

During baby season (Oct - March) a lot of time is taken up with babysitting shifts for the vervet monkeys. These are all orphans and need a lot of love and attention as they often come in traumatized.

It is essential during baby shifts that there is a constant supply of fresh milk and, as they get older, food and porridge. Please check before you start your shift if you need to make a fresh bottle or cut more fruit.

Please also keep a note of any baby that is not eating or drinking well or any baby that may have diarrhoea or other signs of illness and report to a member of staff. Diarrhoea, if left untreated, can be very serious in the baby monkeys and the subsequent dehydration or infection that has caused it can kill them. If you are worried about any animal at any time please let us know - we may have not yet noticed or seen the problem.

Daily and Weekly Jobs

There are certain jobs at the centre which need to be carried out daily and some that are weekly. These jobs change with the seasons and depending what animals we have in our care at anytime. They will be written up on the whiteboard by the feed room.

In addition to these jobs there will always be lists of other things that need to happen at any given time - such as preparing new cages, moving of animals, building projects etc.

And Finally...

We know the work is often hard and dirty with long hours. However these animals are all relying on us to give them a fresh start at a new life of freedom and it is essential that they are given the best care and attention while they are with us.

A sense of humour and a strong initiative is essential as is the ability to get along with new people and be accepting of other peoples views and opinions. The more you put in to your time with us the more you will get out of it. We hope you enjoy yourselves!

Animals at the Centre (October 2016)

- **Zac and Coco** - These are capuchin monkeys that are both victims of the exotic pet trade. They are not indigenous to South Africa and therefore can't be released. They can be quite aggressive to new people but if you spend time with them and bribe them with treats then you will soon make friends! Zac is 7 and Coco is 8.
- **Big Monks Troop** - This troop of 17 Vervet Monkeys is made up of arrivals from 2012 -2013. Their release is planned for December this year. They are aggressive to people and we have no contact with them. Do not attempt to go into this enclosure at all.
- **Hazels Troop** - This troop of 16 monkeys is made up of vervets who arrived 2013 -2014. They will possibly also be released this year at the same farm as Big Monks troop. We also have no contact with these monkeys and food is thrown in over the fence. You may notice George in this troop who is terribly thin and has a damaged lip. He was recently taken to the vet due to his dramatic weight loss and was treated for worms and an infection but no cause was found. We have put him back into the troop as its more stressful for him to be on his own but he may be removed again before they are released and added to the new babies depending on his condition.
- **The Boonies** - Made up of Stanly and Sondela (The biggest 2) and the 3 baby girls (Carly, Seeva and Gracie). We have recently introduced all 5 of them together and volunteers are no longer able to go into this enclosure due to Stanlys teenage antics.
- **Tallulahs Troop** - This troop is made of monkeys who came in 2014 - 2015. As soon as Big Monks Troop is released they will move into the semi wild enclosure. Recently, Buttons the alpha male has started to challenge his status and can become aggressive. Please only go into this enclosure once you are comfortable around the monkeys or have made friends. If in doubt, stay out.
- **The babies (Pietys Troop)** - These are our youngest babies and are made up of the 2015 - 2016 intake. Volunteers are still able to go in this enclosure to feed and clean the cage. Keep an eye out for tiny Violet who is the same age as the others but never grew. She may get taken out from the troop and joined up with the new babies that come in this year.
- **The Owls** - Errol the Spotted Eagle Owl and the 2 Wood owls came from another rehab centre that closed down. The 2 wood owls have deformed feet and therefore cannot hunt and cant be released. We have tried to release Errol in the past but he is too tame and ended up back inside the lodge. Its too risky for him to be released in case he turns up at someones house who is not quite as tolerant as us!
- **Bambles the duiker** - Found wandering in the road, he was brought to us as a tiny orphan and handraised. He now lives in with the wood owls and is starting to wean himself onto fruit and veg. He will be released when old enough.

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