



Wildlife in Trade Programme

Conservation Canine Handler – 12-month contract position

Purpose of the Position: The Endangered Wildlife Trust is one of the largest biodiversity conservation NGOs in southern Africa and is seeking to employ a Canine Handler in the Conservation Canine Unit for a 12-month contract position. Poaching and wildlife trafficking are major threats to biodiversity in South Africa, and the role of the Conservation Canine Unit is to disrupt and deter trafficking by placing detection and tracking dogs at targeted locations within the country. The focus of the work will be to support the Conservation Canine Coordinator in implementing a project titled: *“Supporting conservation canine units to detect and interdict illegal wildlife products and firearms on nature reserves to prevent wildlife trafficking”*.

Duties:

The Canine Handler will primarily be responsible for maintenance, care, and training of wildlife detection and tracking dogs based at the EWT Conservation Campus in Midrand, with a focus on training dogs for deployment to reserves for the abovementioned project. The Canine Handler will also support the Conservation Canine Coordinator and work alongside the other canine handlers.

More specifically, they will:

- Assist with day-to-day duties of cleaning kennels, providing daily care of dogs (including feeding, walking, and grooming), and monitoring dog health.
- Assist in the training of green conservation dogs, including wildlife detection and tracking dogs, for deployment into reserves around South Africa.
- Assist with the deployment of trained dogs to reserves as well as providing refresher training to dogs and handler teams in reserves.
- Be required to stay at the EWT Conservation Campus every third weekend to feed and look after the dogs. It may be possible for the successful applicant to stay permanently on the campus during the contract period.

Qualifications and Experience required:

- Qualified as a dog handler with DH1-5 SASSETA or PSIRA equivalent.
- Private Security Industry Regulation Authority (PSIRA) registered (grade A preferred).
- Minimum of 3 years-experience handling and training detection and tracking dogs, preferably with anti-poaching unit experience, with priority given to applicants with more than 5 years-experience working actively as a detection handler.
- Experience of working with a wide variety of role-players in the wildlife trade arena, including government officials (including those with an environmental and law enforcement mandate), conservation/environmental organisations, and the private sector.
- A high degree of self-motivation and pro-activity.

Competencies required:

- Excellent competency with dog handling and training.
- Valid SA driver’s license, and suitable off road and long-distance driving experience.
- High degree of self-motivation and pro-activity.
- Good organisation skills.
- Willingness to travel.
- Fluency in English; knowledge of a second Southern African language would be beneficial.

- Proficiency in report writing and the ability to write well.

Interpersonal skills:

- Disciplined, innovative and energetic.
- Good people skills and an approachable manner.
- The ability to work both independently and as part of team.

This post is based in Midrand Johannesburg, and consideration will not be given to candidates not living in close proximity to Johannesburg. The Endangered Wildlife Trust is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants are requested to submit a CV with no less than three references, a completed **EWT [Employment Application](#)** form **and a detailed motivation as to how and why they would be the best possible candidate for the post**. Applicants who have not been contacted within ten days of the closing date must please assume that their application was unsuccessful. The **EWT** reserves the right not to make an appointment. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence: closing date **25 August 2021**. To apply, please email the required documents to Emma Chisare at emmac@ewt.org.za, and please ensure that you cc your email to shadih@ewt.org.za.