

VSA E-Volunteer Assignment Description

Assignment Title	Veterinary Services Trainer
Country	Tonga
Location of Partner Organisation	Nuku'alofa, Tongatapu
Partner Organisation	Tonga Animal Welfare Society (TAWS)
Duration	6 months part time
Sustainable Development Goals	



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1. Partner organisation overview

The Tonga Animal Welfare Society (TAWS) was established in 2020 by a group of residents who came together to become the voice for animal welfare in Tonga, and to help support the community with challenges they face when it comes to animal care.

The organisation is now a registered NGO, with each of the volunteer Board members giving their time to the operation and logistics of the organisation, and also to animal rescue and welfare.

TAWS aims to unite, educate, and support the community in all areas of animal welfare.

The key objective of the organisation is to advocate for the welfare of animals, and actively promote their humane treatment by promoting awareness of animal welfare. The guiding principles of the organisation are the universal codes of 5 Freedoms [The Five Freedoms for animals | Animal Humane Society](#).

TAWS' work includes:

- Encouraging the use of veterinary services
- Helping neglected, abandoned or unwanted animals
- Advocating for the prevention of the cruelty to, and neglect of, animals
- Relieving distress and aiding injured and sick animals
- Raising funds to enable TAWS to achieve its objectives.
- Contributing to the development of legislation and policy on animal welfare in Tonga

2. Assignment overview

TAWS works with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests (MAFF), South Pacific Animal Welfare (SPAW), and the community to assist with animal care. In the absence of a qualified vet in Tonga, this means a lot of hands-on work, doing preventative and post injury assistance. None of the Board members are trained in Veterinary services but do the best they can with the knowledge that they have.

TAWS are seeking a VSA volunteer who is trained in veterinary services to train the volunteers who are carrying out essential animal welfare tasks in Tonga. The training would include First Aid for animals, the steps to take when an animal is injured, and minor animal surgery and wound care.

A VSA volunteer will also support the TAWS volunteers in the creation of materials to be used in the launch of an animal welfare education programme for children in schools. This programme will teach children about how to take care of the animals in their household and in their community and will teach



respect and care for animals using the internationally accepted standards of care, referred to as the Five Freedoms.

3. Goal/outcomes/outputs

Goal

TAWS volunteers are confident in their ability to carry out day-to-day animal welfare tasks in Tonga, and in the development and delivery of animal welfare education programmes to school children.

Outcome 1

TAWS Board members and volunteers are trained in First Aid for animals.

- Assess current levels of skills and knowledge
- Work with the TAWS team to establish level of training required
- Develop a training programme to pass on basic first aid for animals skills to Board members and volunteers
- Deliver the training programme
- Mentor training recipients

Outcome 2

TAWS volunteers are trained in basic wound care and basic surgery for animals

- Assess current levels of skills and knowledge
- Work with the TAWS team to establish level of training required and to develop a training programme
- Deliver the training programme
- Mentor training recipients

Outcome 3

A comprehensive and appropriate schools-based education programme is developed

Work with TAWS Board to:

- Assess Ministry of Education requirements for a schools-based education programme
- Develop the programme
- Assist with the preparation of materials
- Assist with TAWS members' preparation for delivery
- Assist with establishing Monitoring and Evaluation systems and processes for the programme

4. Reporting and working relationships and capacity building

This is an e-volunteer position. The volunteer will report directly to The Vice President and/or Secretary of the TAWS Board and will be accountable to The TAWS Board.

On a day-to-day basis, the volunteer will predominately communicate and work with TAWS Board members and volunteers.

Capacity will be achieved in a number of areas:

- TAWS Board members – First AID and basic surgical training and mentoring
- Community members – animal care and welfare
- School children – care for animals within households and communities

The volunteer and Tonga Animal Welfare Society will have an ongoing relationship with the VSA programme manager in terms of assignment monitoring, reporting, professional advice, and personal support.



As needs on the ground may change over time, the volunteer is encouraged to review and update the Assignment Description in consultation with the partner organisation and VSA Programme Manager. By their very nature, development situations can involve significant change, so it is advisable that the volunteer periodically review and reflect on the Assignment Description throughout the Assignment to ensure the best development outcomes are being achieved.

5. Selection criteria/position requirements

Person specifications (professional)

Essential

- Veterinary qualifications to at least Veterinary Technician level
- Experience in Training and Mentoring
- Ability to provide technical advice remotely
- Dedication, compassion, and love for animals

Desirable

- Experience working with volunteers and members of not for profit organisations
- Experience in high trauma cases relating to dogs

Personal specification (personal)

Essential

- Approachable, straightforward, and kind
- Clear and concise presentation of advice
- Interest in learning about Tongan cultural practices
- Tolerance and patience
- Innovative with limited resources
- Good sense of humour

6. VSA Essential Attributes

- Commitment to volunteering, to VSA and to the partner organisation
- Cross cultural awareness
- Adaptability and a willingness to approach change or newness positively
- Able to form good relationships, both personally and professionally, with work colleagues and in the community
- Resilience and an ability to manage setbacks
- Initiative and resourcefulness
- An ability to facilitate learning through skills exchange

7. Country Context

For more information about Tonga, see vsa.org.nz/about-vsa/countryregion/tonga



Additional information

Residency status

VSA volunteers must be New Zealand citizens or have New Zealand permanent residency status, and currently living in NZ.

Final appointment

Final appointment will be subject to satisfactory VSA clearances, and partner organisation acceptance.

Children's Act

VSA is committed to the protection of vulnerable children and adults, which also includes meeting our commitment under the Children's Act 2014.

The information requested during the application process is necessary to assist VSA to determine applicant suitability to work and/or interact regularly with children and is part of a series of pre-selection checks undertaken on all applicants for VSA assignments.

E-Volunteer package

The volunteer's package includes the following:

Reimbursements

Volunteers will receive a monthly honorarium of NZ\$90 for a part-time assignment. This amount is expected to reimburse the volunteer for costs associated with undertaking the assignment.

Final terms and conditions relating to the specific volunteer assignment will be confirmed in a personalised volunteer contract.

