



About the Course



SA WorldVets

Immerse yourself in the world of wildlife veterinary medicine and conservation by working behind the scenes with some of the planet's most iconic species in one of the most beautiful places on Earth—the African bush in and around Kruger National Park, South Africa.

The **SAWV Advanced Course in Wildlife Veterinary Medicine, Management and Conservation** builds on core theoretical and fundamental wildlife conservation principles, pairing them with extensive hands-on experience in wildlife veterinary medicine, management, rescue, and treatment.

As one of the few **veterinarian-owned and veterinarian-led student programmes**, this course places a strong emphasis on practical, in-field learning. Students work alongside our experienced wildlife veterinarian, with fieldwork complemented by focused lectures and case-based discussions covering real clinical scenarios and critical conservation topics. This is not an ecotourism experience, but an intensive, immersive practical—characterised by long days in the field and exposure to the realities of a working wildlife veterinarian's life, including both routine and emergency cases.

Outside of active veterinary work, students also take part in a range of included excursions and activities that explore broader conservation efforts and showcase the unique natural and cultural beauty of South Africa.

Group sizes are intentionally kept small to ensure personalised mentorship, close supervision, and maximum hands-on exposure to real-world wildlife veterinary cases.

Wildlife medicine is inherently unpredictable, and no two days are the same. Students can expect constantly changing opportunities as work adapts to routine procedures, emergency call-outs, and conservation priorities. For this reason, we cannot guarantee a fixed timetable, specific species, or exact case types—but this variability is precisely what develops the adaptability, clinical judgement, and resilience required to succeed in this demanding and rewarding field.

Earn Volunteer and Animal Experience Hours

Participants can earn up to **86 hours of animal experience** (equivalent to **2 CVM elective credits**), while reinforcing core veterinary medical skills and building valuable professional relationships within the field of wildlife veterinary medicine.

This course is designed for veterinary students who have a foundational understanding of wildlife veterinary medicine but limited hands-on animal experience. Applications are also welcomed from students studying **veterinary medicine, veterinary technology, veterinary nursing, zoology, wildlife conservation, or wildlife rehabilitation**.

In addition, upon successful completion of the course, supervising veterinarians frequently provide **letters of recommendation** to support residency, internship, and scholarship applications.



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