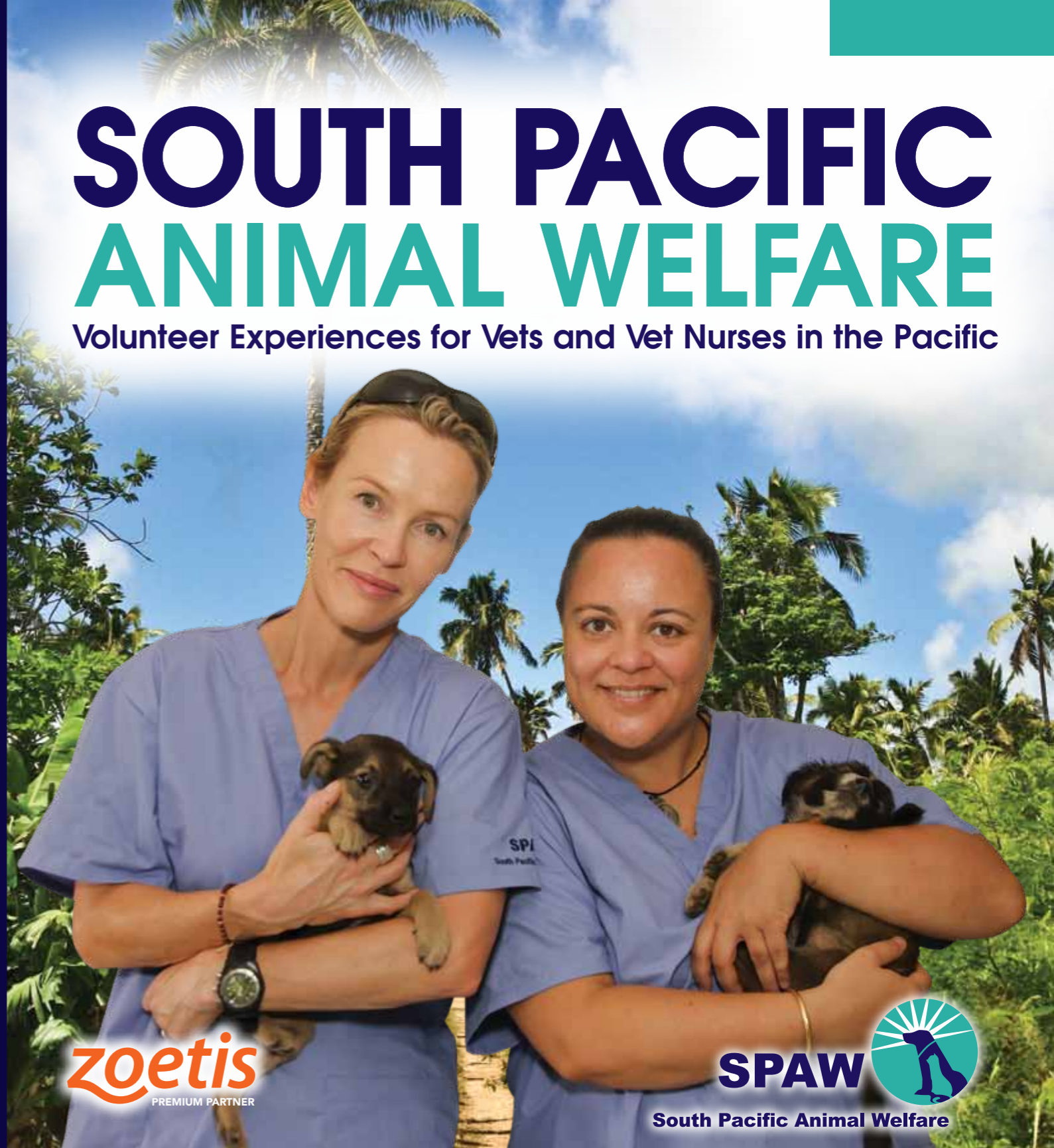


SOUTH PACIFIC ANIMAL WELFARE

Volunteer Experiences for Vets and Vet Nurses in the Pacific



TESTIMONIALS

Dr. Alex Melrose

Throughout the week the antibiotics flowed, the scalpels whirred (in controlled fashion of course), the suture packets emptied, and groggy pets were safely shipped back home. Somehow we managed to fit in swims, snorkels, a dive or two, great dinners and a huge party with our hosts. What an adventure! A unique experience. The hospitality on the island. The grateful owners. The daily challenges. The heat. The teamwork. The rescued pups. The community education. The glowing health of animals treated on previous trips, and the pride of their owners. Feels great.

Dr. Alex Elson

I have been on three SPAW trips as a volunteer now so can be pretty honest about the experience. If you enjoy routine surgery, travelling to beautiful pacific islands and meeting like-minded people then a volunteer trip with SPAW may well foot the bill for you. You won't be lying by a swimming pool all day but will get involved with friendly island people and their community. You will have some time for R and R - and you will need it. It is hard work and involves a certain amount of stress but it is extremely rewarding. You need to have a good sense of humour, tolerance of heat and flies and nervous animals, and above all - you need to be totally adaptable. It is great fun and I will do it again as often as I can.

Dr. Cathy Holgate

Working with SPAW in Tonga enabled me to use my veterinary skills in a new and challenging way. It is wonderful to know that even the simplest of treatments often makes a huge impact in an animals' life.

Jan Gill, Vet Nurse

A fabulous way to add to 20 years of vet nursing. A wonderful experience, and I'm going back for more!

Petra Neunz, Vet Nurse

I loved going into the remote villages to do some nursing outside the main clinic in Tongatapu. The local kids were so interested in what we did and how we did it - great fun and a wonderful team to work with.

Leanne Nola, Vet Nurse

Amazing experience, fantastic place, interesting cases. It's on my wish list to go again.

So, does this sound like you? Please contact us.



FIND OUT MORE OR APPLY:

Application forms are on our website however you can, also contact us by email or telephone and why not like our facebook page.

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NZSPAW
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COLLABORATION | CULTURAL AWARENESS SUSTAINABILITY | QUALITY CARE

SPAW has activity scheduled on Tonga, Niue and Samoa. We recruit a minimum of one vet and one vet nurse for each clinic but often have mixed teams of up to six volunteers from around the world. A team might include people you don't yet know or industry colleagues and friends, so volunteers should have an open mind, be flexible and patient.

OUR ISLANDS TONGA | NIUE | SAMOA | VISIT WWW.SPAW.ORG.NZ

Our updated programme schedule is available on our website. Registered New Zealand Charity CC46408

VOLUNTEERING AS A VET OR VET NURSE WITH SPAW

Volunteering in the Pacific allows vets and vet nurses or vet techs to take their knowledge and experience to exotic, beautiful yet challenging environments where your skills and expertise is not the norm. A volunteer experience with SPAW is a chance to give a little (or a lot) of yourself to those countries in desperate need of your help - a chance to help animals and people living in developing nations - you will be at the coalface of grass roots veterinary care.

The level of care SPAW delivers is mainly for dog and cat populations. De-sexing and basic medicine and preventive care is our focus so small animal vets and vet nurses are needed for all of our programmes. There are also opportunities to help with large animal medicine and our clinics provide opportunities to adapt your knowledge in order to provide often life saving interventions for animals with a varied array of diseases and injuries. It can certainly get interesting!

As an organisation our philosophy is to work collaboratively with local people, taking a hands-on approach to our work. We will often be asked to provide skills development to locals allowing our volunteers to gain first-hand experience in training and developing the skills of technicians in their native land.

It will be enormously satisfying (and eye-opening) for you to work in remote island villages where veterinary care has previously been minimal or non-existent. You will start to build an appreciation and empathy amongst the locals about better caring for the animals around them in a way they have not previously known. More often than not locals respond very well to our visiting teams and are eager to learn and see their animals cared for.

Clinic work can be intense and is most definitely challenging. Our field clinics function without the usual western resources however working through problems and adapting to the island surroundings appeals to those adventurous types who love a challenge. You will have a lot of fun with other volunteers and locals - vets and vet nurses who love to solve problems or aspire to a challenge will be in their element.

Our pre-arranged trips run for one week and a volunteer day will run from 8.30 am to the late afternoon or sometimes even early evening depending on emergencies and work load. Once clinic work wraps up volunteers kick into leisure mode - diving, swimming, snorkelling, trekking or searching out local eateries. There is plenty of time to explore your host island during any volunteer experience, however, if you are looking for a week-long beach holiday in the sun, then our trips are likely not for you. We ensure a complimentary vehicle is available for volunteer use so getting out and about after work and on non clinic days is easy for you!

SPAW volunteer accommodation is clean, safe and often "in amongst it". Accommodation will be share twin and usually fully self contained. The expat community is welcoming as they have witnessed the importance and benefits of our work and are keen to see local animals cared for, and volunteers treated well, so support is wide-spread.



VETERINARY CARE | HUMANE EDUCATION | SPAY/NEUTER | VACCINATIONS | TRAINING LOCALS

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

As a volunteer organisation, and purely donor based, we rely on the generosity of our volunteers to fund the direct expenses of their own experience. We in turn raise all the funds required to deliver all on island logistics.

Volunteer Experience Fee

Your Volunteer Experience Fee is in addition to your travel/flight costs, living costs and leisure costs, however it also minimises your overall costs as we have negotiated special rates with our on-island partners allowing us to use these discounts to benefit you.

\$600.00NZ per volunteer for a 7 night/8 day volunteer experience (usually Saturday to Saturday).

Your Volunteer Experience Fee includes

- 7 nights accommodation - single or share-twin
- Clean, tidy and safe self contained housing in a local village shared with other volunteers
- Rental vehicle
- Airport transfers
- Farewell team dinner at a local restaurant - usually held on Friday night
- Volunteers manual and welcome pack
- SPAW scrub top (to keep as your own)
- Trip planning and on island logistics
- Volunteer certificate of appreciation and letter of thanks from the organisation
- An element of your fee also helps us with our pre and post clinic administration

Special Offer: Vets who take a vet nurse with them on a SPAW clinic will receive a 50% discount on the vet nurse experience fee. This encourages vet and vet nurse teams and makes it more affordable for you to take one of your treasured vet nurses on this unique experience of a life-time. Volunteers are welcome to fundraise additionally to help fund their volunteer experience. Seeking the support of friends, family and work colleagues is a good way to help with your personal costs.

This Experience Fee is paid directly to SPAW before you arrive on island and is non refundable if you cancel.

What You Need to Budget For

Flights & travel

Flight costs vary and volunteers who book well in advance will get the best rates! Flights into Pacific islands vary from country to country. We recommend you research what path suits your time-frame and budget accordingly. We can also offer suggestions - you simply need to ask.

Daily Spending

We recommend \$20NZ to cover your basic living costs such as breakfast cereal, packed lunch and bottled water. Leisure and entertainment (eating out, diving, local tours and activities) are additional and you will need to research the island location you are visiting to gain an understanding of what things cost. You can transport much of what you need (food and sundry items) with you depending on the island location you are volunteering on and our admin team can provide further information on this leading up to your trip. There is more detailed information about volunteering on our website.