



## Carnivores, Livelihoods and Landscapes

PO Box 1611  
00606 Nairobi

0733997910 or 0721631664  
[info@actionforcheetahs.org](mailto:info@actionforcheetahs.org)

[www.actionforcheetahs.org](http://www.actionforcheetahs.org)



### Application Details

**Title: Canine Handler Consultant**

**Location:** Action for Cheetahs in Kenya - Working at our Nairobi and Samburu facilities with possibilities of frequent and extended field exercises

**Status:** Full-time live-in Consultancy averaging 40 – 45 hours per week

**Stipend:** USD \$250 per month negotiable

**Benefits:** Food and accommodation provided at ACK facilities in Nairobi, Samburu or during field exercises, All in-country transport provided during field work, Flight (up to USD \$1500) and visa (up to \$200) re-imbursment at end of consultation. If staying over three months a work permit will be applied for at signing of TOR and ACK will cover the application fee.

**Duration of Contract:** Three months to one year – 2022-2023 dates available

**Contact name:** Mary Wykstra, Executive Director

**Application deadline:** Any time

**Important:** All applicants must submit a 1 page cover letter, a CV/Resume and **three** professional references (not relatives) by email to [info@actionforcheetahs.org](mailto:info@actionforcheetahs.org)

**Please use Subject:** Canine Consultant Application – (your name)

Shortlisted candidates: Will be contacted within one week to one month of application receipt

### About Carnivores, Livelihoods and Landscapes:

**CaLL** is an independent, non-profit predator focused conservation organization registered in 2009. Our mission is to link Kenya carnivore programmes under an integrated organization through which conservation efforts can be strengthened to assure carnivore survival, particularly in human influenced ecosystems. **Action for Cheetahs in Kenya** is a project within **CaLL** which promotes the conservation of cheetahs in Kenya through research, awareness and community participation. **ACK** began in 2001 as a science-based research project. Field facilities in Samburu County were initiated in 2010. Our detection dog project was formally initiated in 2015, with field work beginning in late 2016. Extensive field work was conducted in 2018 and 2019 with over 200 samples collected in our pilot sites. Two new puppies were donated in 2019 and were trained at our base locations by local training through remote consultation. We are currently seeking professional detection handlers with experience to guide our local team in continued training and in conducting field searches in several remote locations across Kenya.

For more detailed information visit [www.actionforcheetahs.org](http://www.actionforcheetahs.org).

*ACK aims to promote the conservation of cheetahs in Kenya through research, awareness and community participation. ACK works closely with local wildlife authorities and land holders to develop policies and programmes which support wildlife conservation and human livelihoods for the long term development of sustainable human and wildlife zones.*

*ACK is a not-for-profit project working in affiliation with:*





### Job description

The **ACK** project is seeking applicants for the challenging position of a Canine Handler Consultant. This position is great opportunity in a small but growing conservation organization working with iconic species, in a fast-paced environment, with a passionate team of dedicated people. The accepted candidate will assist with enhancing the skills of our existing team in detection dog training and handling in the field. This consultancy will assist with oversight in programme management. Canine handling includes training and field exercises to locate cheetah fecal samples for studies on cheetah health and genetics. Dogs are trained to find cheetah faeces for sample collection to determine cheetah diet, stressors and genetic relationships. Field work will be extensive across Kenya as a part of a national cheetah survey. This consultancy will hold a key role in growing the canine detection dog programme, for this and future conservation detection projects. This position requires significant prior detection dog handling experience and training – minimum of six months.

### ACK Facilities

Action for Cheetahs facilities are basic.

- In Nairobi, the staff live in rooms that have one or two beds depending on the number of staff present at the facility at a time. The house has modern amenities including hot running water, gas stove and electric oven, electricity for charging phones and equipment, and internet accessibility. Weather is typically in the high teens to low twenties (Celsius) with frequent rain. The site is in a school compound (Muguku Tumaini School) with adequate training space in the playing fields and roads for endurance walks.
- The Samburu field site is located at the Meibae Community Conservancy and has tents with two beds in each tent for staff accommodation. Individual temporary tents can be set up. Toilet and showers do not have running water. Power is solar in the office only, and water is collected via roof run-off in the rainy season. When tank water runs out we carry water to the site via vehicles or fetch water from the nearby Ewaso River.
- During field work the tents and dog kennels are mobile and amenities will vary depending on location, but are typically very basic camping.
- We have a veterinary consultant who checks on the dogs every three months and is readily available for consultation in case of illness, injury or emergency. The nearest veterinary facility to our Samburu field site is over 5 hour's drive on rough roads, thus we keep a basic emergency kit and our handlers and other staff are trained on emergency preparedness.
- The nearest human medical facility in Samburu is about 1 hour away and there are local air evacuation accommodations available.

### Key responsibilities

Act as a consultant to development and implementation of scat detection training and work plans, policy manuals, scheduling, record keeping and report writing including:

- Daily dog care – cleaning, feeding and medical exams;
- Dog handling during training and field work;
- Coordination of training and field exercise to meet project objectives;
- Professional presentations and demos to community, administrative authorities and media;
- Assist with fundraising and social media and other promotional media



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### Desirable Qualifications

- Strong understanding canine behavior and training tools in scent detection;
- Experience in canine handling - at least six months of practical dog handling;
- Strong Communication skills;
- Strong Computer skills (Word, Excel, Google platforms, GIS skills are a bonus, video editing skills are also a bonus).

### Desirable Skills and Experience

- Communication – good written and verbal communication skills in English (Kiswahili or other local Kenyan languages would be a bonus);
- Integrity – Sound and honest moral principles
- Adaptability – able to adjust to changing schedules and work plans as needed;
- Discipline – follow instructions and protocols for documentation of training and dog care;
- Experience - including camping, in remote areas with basic living conditions;
- Writing – Experience in record keeping;
- Independence – Ability to work independently and make decisions under pressure;
- Team Player – Proven ability to work well as part of a diverse team;
- Commitment – Strong conservation ethic and discipline in consistency, passionate about canines;
- Flexibility – Able to adapt to changes and prioritize tasks;

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**Please use Subject:** Canine Manager Application – (your name)

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## Carnivores, Livelihoods and Landscapes

### Scent room training and outdoor training in Nairobi



### Field Work in Samburu



### Scat Dogs Saving Cheetahs





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### Housing Facilities – Samburu Camp and Nairobi (Same Kennel Design in Nairobi and Samburu)



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