



VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK

LETTER FROM CO-FOUNDER JANINE LICARE

Welcome to Kids Saving the Rainforest (KSTR).

It is a great privilege to have you as a volunteer. Over the past several years KSTR has grown from being a local organization to an international non-profit NGO with members in over 20 countries. We believe that your help will assist us to grow into an even larger and more impactful organization.

Our mission is to raise consciousness about the inter-connectivity between nature and humankind, and to help protect the flora and fauna of Costa Rican rainforests.

We believe that the rainforest is a storehouse of treasures. We vow to do everything we can to save it, and to save the future of our generation! We must save the rainforest, as it is our FUTURE that must be protected. With the vanishing rainforest go our future and our planet. We have to be the generation that makes a difference.

We appreciate the diversity each and every volunteer has to offer, bringing us closer to our goal to protect the environment.

We are committed to supporting you to find what you are looking for throughout your time with us.

Tropically yours,

Janine Licare

Co-founder and Spokesperson

INTRODUCTION TO KIDS SAVING THE RAINFOREST

KSTR Mission Statement

KSTR's mission is to protect the diverse wildlife of Costa Rica by rehabilitating wildlife, conducting original scientific research, training volunteers, and promoting conservation.

Our Pledge

The rainforest is a storehouse of treasures. If it continues to disappear, life on this planet as we know it will vanish as well. We vow to do everything we can to save the rainforest because it is our future. We will be the generation that makes a difference.

Goals

- To educate people about the rainforest and empower them to save it.
- To ensure the survival of local threatened species.
- To care for abandoned, sick, or injured animals until they can be reintroduced into the wild.
- To preserve and protect rainforests by planting trees.
- Documented research program released 2- and 3-toed sloths.

Background

Kids Saving the Rainforest (KSTR) is a non-profit organization that was founded in Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica. It was started by two nine-year-old girls, Janine Licare and Aislin Livingstone, and Janine's mom, Jennifer Rice, in February 1999. Janine and Aislin sold painted rocks at a roadside stand to raise money to save the rainforests and the Titi monkeys of Costa Rica.

Since 1999, KSTR continues to communicate, educate and inspire kids and adults around the world. We offer tours to teach people about the rainforest, its destruction, and empower them to save it. We have published 5 children's books with a rainforest message.

With only minimal resources, we take measurable steps towards our conservation goals each year. We have installed over 130 aerial monkey bridges, planted more than 10,000 rainforest trees, and starting in 2016 we began planting 94,000 more! The Wildlife Rehabilitation center treats and releases around 100 wild animals each year and we have a Wildlife Sanctuary so that animals no longer fit for life in the wild will always have a home at our wildlife sanctuary.

Education, conservation, and research are the keys to alleviating human pressure on delicate rainforests. KSTR has thus far been enormously successful at bringing together an international group of scientists, students, volunteers and local residents. Our continued success relies strongly on the generosity and involvement of those who care.

Donations, tours of our wildlife sanctuary and funds raised by our volunteer program are the only way we can continue our important work. Thank you so much, because we couldn't do it without people like you!

Online (www.kidssavingtherainforest.org) visitors can give to one of a few sponsorship programs:

- **Plant a tree in our reforestation program**
- **Sponsor a Small Mammal or Bird**
- **Sponsor a Squirrel Monkey (Mono Titi)**
- **Provide Monkey Bridge Maintenance for a Year**
- **Sponsor a Spider Monkey or White Faced Capuchin Monkey**
- **Sponsor a Sloth or Tropical Mammal**

WILDLIFE SANCTUARY PROPERTY

On the property of Blue Banyan Inn, we operate a Wildlife Sanctuary and Rescue Center. Here, we provide a safe, healthy and happy life for animals that are no longer fit to survive in their natural habitat. The sanctuary is also a resource to scientists and individuals who wish to study the behavioral ecology of these captive animals.

Within the sanctuary, there are currently many mammals:

- Brazilian Marmosets (*Callithrix jacchus*, Common Marmoset),
- Panamanian Tamarins (*Saguinus geoffroyi*, Geoffrey's Tamarin),
- Spider Monkeys (*Atelles geoffroyi*, or "Mono Araña"),
- White Faced Capuchin Monkeys (*Cebus capuchinus*, or "Carablanca")
- Squirrel Monkeys (*Saimiri oerstedii citrinellus* and *S. oerstedii oerstedii* or "Mono Titi")
- Kinkajou (*Potos flavus*, or "Martilla")
- Coati (*Nasua narica*, "Pizote")
- Two-toed sloths (*Choleopus hoffmanni*, "Perezoso de dos dedos").

We also have many rescued birds:

- Parrots: Red Lored parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*, "Lora frentiroja"), Yellow naped parrot (*Amazona auropalliata*, "Lora nuca amarilla"), White Crowned parrot (*Pionus senilis*, "Chucuyo"), Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*)
- Parakeets: Orange-chinned (Brotogeris jugularis, "Pericos"), Finsch's parakeet (*Psittacara finschi*, "Perico frentirojo")
- Scarlet macaw (*Ara macao*, "Guacamaya roja")
- Great Curassow (*Crax rubra*, "Pava")

Rehabilitation Center and Veterinary Clinic

KSTR has a full-time onsite Veterinarian and Vet tech with a Regente who makes regular visits. There are currently several animals receiving treatment and rehabilitation. The Rehab Center is an isolated set of outdoor enclosures with limited human contact. The Clinic is set up onsite to provide medical treatments in a clean, safe, indoor space, also with minimal human contact. The Wildlife Nursery is an isolated area specifically designed for baby mammals where the nursery staff provide round the clock care. While your volunteer efforts help to support these areas, volunteers will not be entering the veterinary clinic or nursery, and will only visit the rescue center when their help is required and under the close supervision of our clinic/rehab team.

Blue Banyan Inn

The Blue Banyan Inn Bed and Breakfast is owned by Chip, the chief operating director of KSTR. There are currently three cottages available for guest rentals. There is also a Volunteer Center, where the volunteers stay in shared bunk rooms.

In addition to the spacious Volunteer Center there is a pool, lounge area, and a dining area everyone is free to use. Food and kitchen is available for the volunteers to cook breakfast and dinner, but lunch is prepared for volunteers and staff on a daily basis. The property has many fruit trees, a meditation labyrinth, trails and beautiful landscapes.

YOUR SAFETY

As a volunteer with KSTR, your safety is our utmost concern. Working with non-domestic animals presents unique challenges. The following rules and guidelines are set forth to minimize the risks of handling wild animals in the tropics. It is essential that these rules be regarded as the bare list of ALL of the possible dangers. **Each individual must use common sense and respond to each circumstance with proper caution. YOU are the key to a safe and successful experience with us!**

Before volunteering at the KSTR sanctuary volunteers MUST HAVE:

- Tetanus shot is MANDATORY (proof needed prior to arrival)
- Rabies shot is not necessary but recommended if you are a vet student/clinic intern
- TB Testing is not mandatory but recommended (nursery interns it is recommended)
- Have proof of international medical/travel insurance
- Make us aware if you carry the Herpes Simplex Virus (if you get cold sores), this is because if you have an **active** cold sore you cannot come into contact with any of our primates, as this virus can be transmitted to them and can be fatal.
- Read volunteer handbook taking special note of Rules, Safety and Protocols

Health concerns for volunteers

Even though the animals at the Sanctuary have bi-annual physical exams and fecal exams they may still get sick. Transmission may occur via air, food, water, contact with other animals or people, or fomites (microbes carried in shoes, new enrichment device, etc.).

There are diseases that can be transmitted by animals to people (these are called zoonotic) and from people to animals (antropozoonotic). They can transmit viruses, bacteria, parasites and fungi, such as: *Salmonella*, *Yersinia*, *E. coli*, tuberculosis, fecal parasites, fungi, papilloma virus, herpes virus, scabies, etc. Please make sure not to touch them and wash your hands thoroughly after having been in their cage.

Humans can transmit disease to the monkeys. **If you feel any symptoms of sickness please stay away from the wildlife until you feel completely better.** Humans with viral infections cannot work with the monkeys, even if symptoms of the virus are not present. Measles and the Herpes Simplex virus (the virus that causes cold sores) can be fatal to monkeys. **People with any immune suppressing diseases are more susceptible to get any disease, so you must be more careful when working with the wildlife.**

If you become sick during your volunteer time, report this to your Volunteer Coordinator who will confer with the vet, as many illnesses can be transmitted to the animals and harm them. Alternative activities will be found for you. If you remain contagious and ill for a number of days, you will be required to visit the doctor. *Your privacy is important, but so is everyone's safety.*

**Please inform us about any condition such as diabetes, epilepsy, etc. and how we can help in case of emergency.

We have an emergency kit for humans located in the restaurant, but it is essential that you bring your own medicines, in case you suffer from any illness.

RULES ABOUT WORKING AROUND WILDLIFE

The wildlife in the sanctuary have demonstrated they lack the skills or physical ability to survive on their own in the wild, and for their own safety and well-being they need to be kept in captivity. Legally, we cannot have them loose or anywhere other than their enclosures. If you observe that an animal is sick or acting abnormally, please let the vet know immediately so we can check it and rehabilitate it. We may take it out from the enclosure and bring it into the clinic.

1. Do not enter the Sanctuary by yourself or allow others to enter without permission. You will work there daily, but cannot enter outside of working hours or without the supervision of a wildlife professional.
2. No one is allowed to pet the animals. This is dangerous for the person and for the animal, disrespectful, and it is also illegal.
3. Do not enter the Clinic or Rescue Center without vet approval. The animals should have very little contact.
4. Photos can be taken from outside the cage without flash.
5. **Leave cell phones, personal listening devices and cameras outside the enclosures.** Voices and other noise should be minimized.
6. **Tie back long hair and remove all accessories and jewelry.** This could cause injury and could also encourage the animals to climb on you (which should be avoided).
7. We should not address monkeys as people, "my babies" or pets. They are wild animals and should be addressed as so, and we don't want to encourage the pet trade.
8. Do not smoke or drink while doing your job.
9. Chemicals with strong odors (cleaners, disinfectants or detergents) should never be used inside the cages, or on items you will place in the cages.
10. Refrain from wearing heavy bug repellent, perfume or scented personal hygiene products. Many animals, especially mammals, have a highly developed sense of smell. The smells could be distracting, unpleasant or initiate an unwanted behavior.
11. **If you feel any symptoms of sickness please stay away from the wildlife until you feel completely better as you can transmit illness to them.** Let the Volunteer Coordinator know to cover your shifts.
12. **Wash your hands before, between cages and upon completion of your task.** Also wash clothes and shoes accordingly.
13. Wear closed shoes such as hiking shoes, tennis shoes, or rubber boots. No flip flops. Long pants are recommended.

PROTOCOLS FOR PREVENTING BITES AND ESCAPES

Remember that when you enter an animal's cage, you are essentially a visitor in their home. Be respectful of the animal's space and aware of their body language and vocalization.

These animals are used to humans and in general their first instinct will not be to fight, but they will be curious about you. They are individuals and their behavior can change quickly from one moment to the next. **Remember, all wild animals bite!** Females in estrus or with offspring and males during the breeding season may be more aggressive. Always approach every animal as if you expect it to be aggressive.

Follow these rules before entering or approaching the cages:

1. Do not go to the sanctuary by yourself. Always go with an experienced partner.
2. Bring a walkie-talkie with you. Be calm and confident.
3. Count and identify the location of the animals and make sure they are away from the door.
4. When entering cages with smaller animals, one person can enter and the other can watch from outside ready to help if necessary.
5. When entering cages with larger animals, carefully use the shift cage, making sure it's secure.
6. Enter and exit as quickly as possible, using quiet, slow, efficient movements. Make sure to keep door secure at all times and lock behind you when leaving. **Double check the locks!**
7. Avoid prolonged eye contact, loud noises, sudden movements, or open-mouthed smiles.
8. Do not let the monkeys jump on you. If it happens, gently try to encourage them onto a branch by standing near it.
9. Do not let a monkey pull your hair, hit, or scratch you, from within, or reaching through a cage. When possible, walk away, turn your back, or spray with water if needed to dissuade.

If an animal gets aggressive:

1. Try to create or maintain a good distance.
2. Try to exit the cage right away.
3. Have your partner use the hose and spray water between you and the animal

If you are being bitten or otherwise attacked:

1. Your partner should use the water hose
2. Call the Sanctuary Manager, Vet or Zookeeper right away so that they can properly remove the animal. They are trained and the best people to assess and handle the situation.

If an animal escapes:

1. Get away from the animal.
2. Use your walkie-talkie to call for help from a KSTR Staff member.
3. While you are waiting, keep your eyes on the animal but keep a safe distance.
4. We will attempt to attract the animal back into the cage with food.
5. If necessary, the animal may be grabbed with gloves, towels, blankets, nets or a trap.

*Do not try to do this yourself, as they are very fast and will bite!

General Rules and Regulations

- No drinking alcohol during work hours. No alcohol (opened or not) in any department facility
- No smoking by buildings or facilities, only in designated smoking areas
- No drugs allowed on property (including cannabis)
- No tolerance for any type of sexual harassment
- No outside guest permitted without staff consent
- Wear closed toed shoes when in the sanctuary
- No loitering or socializing in the facilities outside of work hours
- No music where there are animals: Sanctuary, Clinic, Rehab, and Nursery.
- No entering the clinic, rescue center, or nursery without staff approval
- No selfie photos/videos of rescue center animals
- No touching/petting animals, especially rescue center animals.
- And work related concerns/observations must be discussed with Head of Department first. Any personal/social concern must be discussed with Volunteer Coordinator.
- All volunteers must sign the release of responsibility letter to KSTR prior to going in the sanctuary.
- Days off must be coordinated with Head of Staff.
- If you are not feeling well please do not go near the animals and tell the Volunteer Coordinator so they can find someone to cover your shifts
- No contact with any primates if you are herpes simplex positive during the time of an outbreak.
- Be respectful of the guests of BBI and the other volunteers. After 10 PM there will be no loud music, yelling, or loud noise of any sort.
- Curfew of 1am
- Let the Volunteer Coordinator know if you plan to spend the night off-campus

All volunteers must adhere to the rules and are subject to dismissal if they do not comply.

Earthquakes

Costa Rica experiences a lot of earthquakes, although most of them are small. Still, if you are not used to this, it can be alarming. Refer to the earthquake evacuation sheet of the volunteer center in case one happens.

Weather

Thunderstorms can be frequent and severe, especially during the rainy season (April to November). If you hear lightning, it is best to stay indoors and avoid open areas. We will find indoor activities to do during a storm.

Snakes

Due to our location in the rainforest, we will sometimes get wild snakes on the property. The majority of these are harmless, but a few species are venomous, even deadly.

- Watch where you step, and never put your hands where you can't see
- Always carry a flashlight/torch in the evenings
- Wear closed-toed shoes at night
- Report any snake sightings to a member of staff
- Never try to approach or touch a snake, even if you think you know the species
- Immediately report any bites. YOU WILL GET TREATMENT as we have a plan in place for this, but it is best not to wait.

For more information talk to the Volunteer Coordinator

Transportation

Here is a rundown on your transportation options:

-International flight into San Jose, SJO: Unless you are already in the country, this will be your first stop. When checking flights, be aware the ideal arrival time at our location is noon, and you will want to get here before dark (about 6 pm). We try to avoid late night arrivals as you will be entering a shared space with sleeping volunteers and interns. If you have a late-night flight, you can stay overnight in San Jose and head down to us in the morning. Several hotels, like the Holiday Inn Express, have free shuttle service to and from the airport.

San Jose is about 3.5 hours away from Quepos. You have a few options on how to make that journey.

-Private Taxi: This is the easiest, less stressful option. We can arrange a private taxi to be waiting for you when you exit the airport. We work with a fantastic driver named Rodney. He will hold a sign with your name and bring you right to our location. He will also track your flight

and contact the VC in case there is a delay. The cost for this is \$150 cash paid directly to the driver. If you are being picked up at a hotel, the cost is \$170.

-Shared Shuttle: You will need to arrange this yourself, but the cost is about half of a private taxi. They will take you to Quepos, where you will need to take a taxi to our center (usually \$20). Some companies that offer this service are MonkeyRide and RideCR. It can be 3.5 hours, or much longer depending on where the drop-offs and pick-ups are of your fellow travelers.

-Domestic Flight: There is a small regional airport about a 15 minute drive from our location. The airline is called SANSA. Be sure to constantly check the status of your flight, because they are known to have last-minute cancellations of flights, etc. At the current moment I would not recommend this method of travel.

-Tracopa Bus: The cheapest option is taking a bus from San Jose to Quepos. First you will need to take a taxi from the airport to the Tracopa Bus Station downtown. It takes about 30 minutes and the cost is around \$30. When you exit the airport you will see many, many taxi drivers vying for your fare, so you won't have a hard time catching a ride. When you get to the bus station, you will need to buy your ticket, which will cost about 5,000 colones or \$10. The attendant most likely will not speak English, so look up some key phrases ahead of time to prepare. If you take the **Directo** (which is a shorter route and does not make repeated stops), the ride is about 3.5 hours. The bus is comfortable and has A/C, and there is a stop halfway through for a bathroom break where you can purchase snacks and drinks. If you take the **Collectivo** the ride can be 5 hours, and the cost is slightly cheaper but not much. I do not recommend it for the ride down, though on your way back to San Jose it is best as it goes directly to the airport, saving you the cost of a taxi ride. Either way, when you arrive at the Quepos bus station, you will then need a taxi from there to our center (\$20).

A good website for Costa Rican bus routes/schedules is thebusschedule.com/cr

VOLUNTEERING

Your first day:

7:30-8:00 Welcome Breakfast (cooked just for you!)

8:00-11:00 Our volunteer coordinator will show you around the property and take you on our sanctuary tour so you can learn all about the animals we have here.

11:00-12:00 Training with the Sanctuary Manager on sanctuary-specific and safety rules

12:00-13:30 Lunch break

13:30-15:00 Training in food prep and delivery (meet at the animal kitchen)

15:00-16:00 Enclosure enrichments or special projects

Once you have been shown around and learn the way the centre works, your usual schedule will look something like this:

7:30-8:00 Breakfast

8:00-9:00 Food prep and delivery (meet at the animal kitchen)

09:00-12:00 Enclosure cleaning and enrichments

12:00-13:30 Lunch break

13:30-15:00 Food prep and delivery (meet at the animal kitchen)

15:00-16:00 Enclosure enrichments or special projects

After 4pm you are welcome to relax, enjoy the pool or head into town for dinner. You will also have 1 day off per week, to enjoy Manuel Antonio or Quepos.

ACTIVITY 1: Housing and Cleaning

Your primary volunteer activity will be providing care to the animals in the sanctuary. We need to ensure the basic freedoms of animal welfare are being provided.

FIVE ANIMAL WELFARE FREEDOMS:

1. Freedom from hunger or thirst, by having ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor.
2. Freedom from discomfort by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
4. Freedom to express normal behavior by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
5. Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

Every animal needs to live in a healthy, clean environment. Their home is their enclosure and their hiding box is their bed. Our animals are active and require a cage large enough for them to jump and

play, and also stimulation to keep the interest. Our cages have live plants, dead branches, bamboo swings, poles, ropes, hammocks, etc. They also have at least one hiding box, one empty platform, and one food platform.

Wildlife in captivity demand a lot of our attention and if we don't give them what they need, they will find ways to let us know we are not meeting their needs. Abnormal behavior patterns and destructive behavior are a result of stress and/or boredom. Captive animals have a lot of time on their hands, and if they are not provided an outlet for all of that energy and intellect, they can resort to destructive behavior patterns. It is up to us to supply them with new, entertaining and challenging activities to take up all of their extra free time. This is called enrichment.

In general, your job is to keep the cage orderly, free of potentially dangerous items, sanitary and comfortable. As a volunteer, you will be assisting an animal caretaker in cleaning the enclosures as well as foraging for branches and leaves to provide enrichment.

ACTIVITY 2: Preparing Food for the Animals

This will be one of your primary activities as a volunteer, and you will participate in the morning and afternoon feedings. Animals in captivity are dependent on their caretakers to provide a complete, healthy and interesting diet. Because of their high intelligence, monkeys need a rotating, diverse meal plan that stimulates their curiosity and intellect and prevents boredom.

With the assistance of a zookeeper or intern, you will collect, prepare, and cook certain foods in the animal kitchen and then take them down to the sanctuary. This will involve chopping fruits and vegetables in different sizes for different animals. Once the food is prepared, you will accompany the animal caretaker into the sanctuary and assist with the feeding of the animals.

ACTIVITY 3: Distributing Food to the Animals

Animals in captivity are also dependent on their caretakers to provide food. Since they are motivated by food, and this is generally a positive time, they will normally focus on that rather than on you. They may even look to you happily and gratefully, BUT, there is also a chance that they will consider you a threat, intruder, or an otherwise negative visitor. You must be cautious and sensitive with your approach, as you will interact and deliver their nourishment for the day.

You will be accompanying an animal caretaker into the sanctuary and distributing food and water to the animals. It is important to follow the instructions of the animal caretaker, as they have your safety in mind and know the general behavior of each animal.

General instructions for each species in the sanctuary:

Birds: Enter and close door behind you. Watch your head for branches or any birds who may be keen to peck at it. Make sure there is a separate bowl for each bird and they are hung apart from each other, ideally near a good perching spot and out of the rain. Be alert and report any serious fighting or flying accidents/injuries.

Marmosets & Tamarins: Either enter quickly and close door behind you OR pass food dishes quickly through open door onto platform (while carefully guarding). Be alert and report any serious fighting.

*Kinkajous: Only receive food in the afternoon. Pass food dishes onto platform quickly while guarding door. If the kinkajous are awake and out or near the door, seek assistance.

Squirrel Monkeys: Make sure they are all out of the shift cage. Carefully close the pass-through window and make sure it is secure, leaving yourself or your partner to carefully guard the lever. Don't allow them to try to poke or grab at you. A hose should be accessible. Place the plates on the platforms, close the door, secure the latches, and re-open the pass-through window.

Capuchins: Make sure they are all out of the shift cage. Carefully close the pass-through window and make sure it is secure, leaving yourself or your partner to carefully guard the lever. Don't allow them to try to poke or grab at you. A hose should be accessible. Open the main door to the shift cage and attach bowls to carabiners. Close the door, secure both latches, and re-open the pass-through window. Make sure there is nothing near the outside of the cage that they could reach.

Spider Monkeys: Make sure they are out of the shift cage. Close the pass through window. Double check that it is locked. One person should guard the lever while the other put food into bowls in the shift cage. Close and latch the door and then re-open the pass-through window. Make sure you keep your distance as you walk past them in the cage.

Follow the directions of Sanctuary staff for any other animals in the Sanctuary not listed here.

ACTIVITY 4: Health Check

Description

Wild animals get sick too, however they are designed to mask it. Predators and conspecifics may attack at the moment they see a weak animal. Therefore, it is more difficult to see signs of disease and it is very important to know what to look for. It might be lifesaving to detect disease earlier rather than later. Please take a couple of minutes each day to examine each individual. As you get practice it will become easier because you will start learning to differentiate normal from abnormal behaviors.

These are the most basic things to watch for:

- In general a healthy animal is bright, alert and active (take into account if they are diurnal or nocturnal).
- They should not be lethargic, weak or without an appetite.
- If they are properly hydrated, the inside of their mouth should be pink and moist.
- Growing animals should gain weight every day. Healthy adults should maintain their weight.
- Their poop is well formed, not liquidy or bloody. However certain foods will taint the color.
- Wild animals are curious and attentive. They have the reflex of flee or attack under aggression.
- The following are signs of sickness
 - Discharge from eyes or nose
 - Sneezing or coughing
 - Diarrhea or soft stools
 - Vomiting

- Bloating
- Limping
- Parasites on their fur or body
- Weakness
- Lack of Appetite
- Injuries

**** If you notice one of these signs notify the Sanctuary Manager, Vet, or Zookeeper immediately!****

ACTIVITY 5: Animal Behavior Observation

When animals are being moved to a different enclosure, are being introduced to other animals, or have been displaying concerning behavior, volunteers will be asked to perform animal observations.

DESCRIBING A BEHAVIOR:

The two main ways that behaviors are described are in terms of structure or consequences.

Structure: What does the behavior look (or sound, or smell) like? How is the animal positioned and what motions is it going through? If you had built a robot version of the animal, what instructions would be necessary for it to execute the behavioral movements?

Consequences: What effect does the behavior have? This can include effects on the animal subject, another animal, or the environment. Some examples of describing a behavior in terms of consequences are “feeding”, “a threat display”, or “collecting nectar”.

ETHOGRAM:

An ethogram is a description of the main types of behaviors for a given species. It breaks behavior down into categories and provides a description for each category. This is useful both for understanding the behavioral repertoire of a species and for making recording behaviors easier. Since an animal’s behavior is naturally a continuous flow from one event or state to another, breaking it down into categories allows a researcher to make measurements and comparisons.

Potential Project: ANIMAL OBSERVATION ASSIGNMENT

OVERVIEW:

You will have an assigned animal to observe. You need to take notes on its behavior and ask yourself if it has a good quality of life and what can be done to improve it.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OBSERVATIONS:

Observe the animal (or animals) and take notes on its behavior for at least 1 hour.

You need to stay outside the enclosure as far as possible (you need to be able to see). Give the animals 5-10 min to adapt to the fact that you are there and let them behave normally (as if you weren’t there). Start your watch.

You will use a Focal Animal Sampling method with the aid of an ethogram, which means you will use an ethogram key and a chart to record events. You will be doing a descriptive behavioral study based on Consequences and Spatial Relation. Therefore, you will record events (actions) and the place it was done.

Once the animals have adapted to the fact that you are observing them and there are no human distractions, every 2 minutes you will take a snapshot of the animal (in your mind). You will describe the action it was doing and where it was doing it in your chart according to the key chart. Repeat every two minutes.

It is very important to be consistent. Ethograms must be done to the same animal, at the same time in the same place always. Actions recorded need to be the ones done in the 2 minute intervals; other actions are not recorded. If an action is not in the key chart and you think it's a relevant action in the animal's life then include it. The same goes with the place, include it if it's not in the chart provided.

Analyze your findings. Compare what is normal and what is not. What is lacking in this animal's life and what can be done to improve their quality of life. Next step: do it. More enrichment? More hiding places? More trees? Improve feeding sites? More interactions between mates? Etc.

Then continue with your observations and ethograms and evaluate if the improvements made actually helped promote what you wanted.

Present your findings. Please give us a written report and/or presentation. Your notes should include:

1. Date and time
2. Location where you observed animal
3. Description of Animal observed (name, brief history resume)
4. Description of animal's social environment (Alone? With another individual? Who?)
5. Your behavioral observations. The actions and places observed and recorded. Count the number of times each action was done versus the total to give you a percentage.

For example: Romeo spent 30% of its time searching for food, 40% grooming, 20% playing with Halle and 10% resting. Since it is not normal for a marmoset to spend so much time grooming, I decided to enrich their cage and encourage play among themselves and exploration. After the improvements were done, Romeo spent 40% of its time searching and exploring, 15% grooming, 35% playing with Halle and 10% resting.

1. Give us recommendations for the future of this animal.
2. Give a brief description of this animal's personality so that other volunteers and tourists visiting will know how each animal is an individual.
3. Describe any problems or challenges you had in observing the animal.

If you have any ideas about potential enrichment or research projects, please speak to the

staff.

Volunteer Packing List

Wet Season (April to November):

- Lightweight rain jacket
- Lightweight sweatshirt
- Waterproof shoes with good traction
- Rain boots (Or we have some here that you can borrow!)
- Flip flops/ sandals
- Multiple outfits you don't mind getting dirty
- Multiple socks (They will get wet!)
- A couple of nice outfits to go into town
- Lightweight long pants and shirt (to prevent mosquito bites at night)
- Bathing suit
- Bug Spray
- Sunblock
- Head lamp/ flashlight
- Reusable water bottle
- Entertainment (tablet, book, computer etc.)
- A debit/credit card that works abroad and cash (just in case)
- Feminine products (They are very expensive here!)

** Any special toiletry items you can't live without**

Dry Season (December to March):

- Multiple outfits you don't mind getting dirty
- Comfortable shoes (sneakers/boots)
- Flip flops/ Sandals
- A couple of nice outfits to go into town
- Bathing Suit
- Bug Spray/ Sun tan lotion
- Head lamp/ flashlight
- Reusable water bottle
- Entertainment (tablet, book, computer, etc.)
- A debit/credit card that works abroad and cash (just in case)
- Feminine products (They are very expensive here!)

** Any special toiletry items you can't live without**

****If you forget anything, it must be sent in a manila envelope to:**

**KSTR, Costa Rica
P.O. Box 297-6350
Quepos, Costa Rica 60601**

506-4070-0340