

VOLUNTEER POSITION

POSITION: Volunteer Veterinarian

PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT: Xaythany District, Lao PDR

LANGUAGE: English: required, French and/or Lao: an asset

PARTNER ORGANIZATION: National University of Laos

DURATION OF PLACEMENT: 6 months (flexibility on duration)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 14 March 2010

START DATE: April/May 2010

OBJECTIVES OF PLACEMENT:

- 1) To help improve animal healthcare and livelihoods from livestock production in Houychiem Community, through a) building the capacity of Primary Animal Health Workers (PAHWs) to provide basic animal healthcare services in their communities and b) to support community education and livelihoods activities such as 'veterinary education days' and poultry production initiatives
- 2) To support local partners with veterinary curriculum development and training

BACKGROUND:

Veterinarians without Borders/ Vétérinaires sans Frontières – Canada (VWB/VSF) is a charitable, humanitarian organization whose mission is to work for, and with, communities in need to foster the health of animals, people, and the environments that sustain us. Within its *Food, Health and Sustainability* Programme Area, VWB/VSF is building capacity in animal health management and ecohealth approaches in Lao PDR.

VWB/VSF is working with the Faculty of Agriculture, National University of Laos and the 11 villages of Houychiem Community in Xaythany District, near the capital Vientiane in Lao PDR, to help develop skills, knowledge and experience in animal health, disease prevention and reporting.

Most villagers rely on rice cultivation as a major income source, as well as activities such as handicrafts, labour, etc. Most also carry out mixed small-scale livestock production, consisting of cattle and buffalo for the higher-income households, some pigs and goats, and poultry. Livestock rearing is extensive with limited vaccination and treatment, and relies heavily on grazing/scavenging.

The aim of this project is to increase capacity in animal healthcare in Xaythany District, to improve opportunities for village communities to raise healthier animals, and to improve their well-being through improved agricultural practices and ecosystem approaches to health.

VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Work with Asia Regional Programme Manager and NUOL Project Coordinators to plan and implement project activities and budgets, to ensure Primary Animal Health Workers (PAHWs) are provided with regular support and guidance, and to build sustainability of project activities
- Provide on-the-job training and mentoring to local volunteer Primary Animal Health Workers (PAHWs) in 11 villages
- Provide technical support to local partners to develop continued training for PAHWs
- Help develop income-generating initiatives such as poultry production for low-income households
- Undertake animal health and disease assessments in relevant villages
- Support the Faculty of Agriculture, National University of Laos (FoA, NUOL) with veterinary curriculum development
- Establish and maintain good rapport with local partners and communities
- Communicate regularly with local partners and with VWB/VSF Asia Regional Programme Manager and report on activities
- Regularly collect, analyse and report on monitoring and evaluation data
- Contribute to developing funding applications
- Ad hoc tasks such as attendance at meetings, report writing, etc

QUALIFICATIONS & REQUIREMENTS:

- Degree in veterinary medicine
- Experience in food animal medicine, preferably in rural settings
- Experience in training/teaching preferred
- Experience in international community development considered an asset
- Ability to work autonomously
- Ability to work in a rural setting with limited resources
- Ability to understand and adapt to cultural differences in social and professional settings
- Willingness to learn basic spoken Lao
- Commitment to the mission and values of VWB/VSF

APPLICATION:

To apply, submit electronic copies of your:

- cover letter
- CV with references
- scanned copies of relevant diplomas

to sonia.fevre@vwb-vsfc.ca, stating "Laos: Volunteer application" in the subject line. Please explain in your cover letter why you are interested in the position, your relevant experience, and what you would bring to the role.

Telephone/Skype interviews will be held between 18-26 March so please provide your telephone number and/or Skype contact.

For more information, please contact Sonia Fèvre, Asia Regional Programme Manager, at the above email address or Erin Fraser, Managing Director, on tel. +1 250-508-5718 or 250-590-3340

OTHER INFORMATION

- Travel to the placement location, accommodation and a basic living allowance will be provided