

# Kinyonga Reptile Centre

## Day 1

### *Welcome/Settle In*

- Arrive at your new home at the Centre, where you will be given a brief introduction, shown around the house and allowed to settle in.

### *Orientation Session*

- Once you have unpacked, grabbed some lunch and relaxed, you will be given a basic orientation of the workings at the Centre, meet all involved and getting to know your way around. Basic rules and regulations will be discussed, and a brief tour of the facility given.
- You will learn what the Kinyonga Reptile Centre stands for and what our missions are.

## Day 2

### *Orientation Day 1*

Getting to know the routines, helping with some of the daily duties around the Centre. Meet some of the animals and learn how to take care of them in a safe way. You will be shown how things work at the Centre and what gets done on a day to day basis.

## Day 3

### *Orientation Day 2*

*An accredited "Reptile Orientation" certificate course given at the Centre by means of a PowerPoint presentation, a refresher tour through the Centre (Including behind the scenes) then a live reptile presentation. After which an assessment test will be written to assess competency.*

*Course Contents:*

- ***Snake-bite First Aid***
- ***Identification***
- ***Introduction to Handling Reptiles***
- ***Safety Techniques***
- ***Phobias***
- ***Habits and Habitat***
- ***Physiology***
- ***Safety Protocol***

## Day 4

### *Daily Duties*

Help with more advanced duties in and around the Centre:

- Daily assessment, cleaning and maintaining of enclosures.
- Upgrading of enclosures.
- Record work, record information relating to animals, rainfall, temperature etc.
- Feeding of animals.
- Medical work with sick or hurt animals.
- Health and wellness checks of all animals.
- Trips to rescue /capture problem animals from surrounding farms.
- Trips to release problem caught animals back into the wild.
- **Research – What does a Spitting Cobra Spit at? (Set-up for Experiment)**

### *Rest*

After a day of work, you will have an opportunity to get some well-deserved rest around the swimming pool.

## Day 5

### Daily Duties

Help with more advanced duties in and around the Centre:

- Daily assessment, cleaning and maintaining of enclosures.
- Upgrading of enclosures.
- Record work, record information relating to animals, rainfall, temperature etc.
- Feeding of animals.
- Medical work with sick or hurt animals.
- Health and wellness checks of all animals.
- Trips to rescue /capture problem animals from surrounding farms.
- Trips to release problem caught animals back into the wild.
- **Research – What does a Spitting Cobra Spit at? (Experiment)**

## Day 6

### Rest Day

Time for some much needed, well deserved rest. You can relax around the pool, go for a hike on a nature trail, visit one of the tourism attractions or do some shopping in town, the choice is yours.

## Day 7

### Field Excursion

Spend the day out in the field with a packed lunch doing research work. You will help an experienced member of our staff in the bush documenting “Golden Brown Baboon Spider” behaviour and habitat. Logging holes, extracting and releasing spiders in order to photograph, measure and check out general health of spiders. Discussions and brainstorming better and more productive research methods for future field research as well as potential ideas for future research projects.

### Rest

After a day of work, you will have an opportunity to get some well-deserved rest around the swimming pool.

## Day 8

### Daily Duties

Help with more advanced duties in and around the Centre:

- Daily assessment, cleaning and maintaining of enclosures.
- Upgrading of enclosures.
- Record work, record information relating to animals, rainfall, temperature etc.
- Feeding of animals.
- Medical work with sick or hurt animals.
- Health and wellness checks of all animals.
- Trips to rescue /capture problem animals from surrounding farms.
- Trips to release problem caught animals back into the wild.
- **Research – When will a Puff Adder bite?**

## Day 9

### Daily Duties

Help with more advanced duties in and around the Centre:

- Daily assessment, cleaning and maintaining of enclosures.
- Upgrading of enclosures.
- Record work, record information relating to animals, rainfall, temperature etc.
- Feeding of animals.

- Medical work with sick or hurt animals.
- Health and wellness checks of all animals.
- Trips to rescue /capture problem animals from surrounding farms.
- Trips to release problem caught animals back into the wild.
- **Research – When will a Puff Adder bite?**

## **Day 10**

### *Photographic Day*

This is a special day filled with opportunities that involves photographing the animals outside of their enclosures in a natural habitat setting. Any camera and all photographic skills will be catered for so that one can get those great shots normally not possible. One of our experts will guide you all the way with tips and suggestions of how best to get your photo of these beautiful animals. Great opportunity to photograph a Chameleon capturing food with its tongue, or a Cobra with hood spread, Puff Adder Feeding, Scorpion under ultraviolet light etc. The idea here is to have detailed photos from all angles that we can learn from. For example, 10 people photographing a Snake or Chameleon feeding will give us a full view of the event. These imagers viewed together will not only help us understand behaviour, but will also be used as educational media and marketing for conservation of the animals.

## **Day 11**

### *Presentations Day*

Each person gets to choose an animal and then do a presentation about that animal. Presentations need to have accurate information about the animal chosen. They must carry some educational value that helps with understanding the animal and thus helping to conserve and save the animal. Live animals can be used in these presentations as long as done safely and that no harm comes to the animals.

## **Day 12**

### *Necropsy Day*

This is a very popular activity that you will enjoy and learn so much from. We collect and freeze all dead specimens collected of the roads in the area for dissection purposes. There will be pre-lessons given to prepare you for this activity, making sure that you understand and are comfortable with dissecting a dead animal. You will then be prepped and armed with surgical gloves and a scalpel, ready to dissect a reptile. This exercise is designed to teach by experience. You will collect data for use by veterinarians and biologists for future operations to help save the life of a reptile. Measuring where organs are situated and their size in relation the body of the reptile, checking for parasites and abnormalities. Pre and post lessons will be given by an expert so that you are comfortable and informed about the activity.

## **Day 13**

### *Daily Duties*

*Help with more advanced duties in and around the Centre:*

- *Daily assessment, cleaning and maintaining of enclosures.*
- *Upgrading of enclosures.*
- *Record work, record information relating to animals, rainfall, temperature etc.*
- *Feeding of animals.*
- *Medical work with sick or hurt animals.*
- *Health and wellness checks of all animals.*
- *Trips to rescue /capture problem animals from surrounding farms.*

- *Trips to release problem caught animals back into the wild.*
- ***Research – What colour does a Plated Lizard prefer?***

## **Day 14**

### *Daily Duties*

*Help with more advanced duties in and around the Centre:*

- *Daily assessment, cleaning and maintaining of enclosures.*
- *Upgrading of enclosures.*
- *Record work, record information relating to animals, rainfall, temperature etc.*
- *Feeding of animals.*
- *Medical work with sick or hurt animals.*
- *Health and wellness checks of all animals.*
- *Trips to rescue /capture problem animals from surrounding farms.*
- *Trips to release problem caught animals back into the wild.*
- ***Research – What colour does a Plated Lizard prefer?***

## **Day 15**

### *Community Outing*

This is a day where you can practice what you have learned and do something worthy for the conservation of reptiles. You will interact with the locals of a nearby village, teaching people about reptiles and learning from people's attitude towards reptiles. It's a fun and valuable day for all. South Africans are generally very much afraid of reptiles due to stories, myths and misconceptions. Now is your chance to change this mindset for the better, you will be guided and tutored by an expert from the Centre to help with this great people's interaction day. You will attend a workshop prior to this outing in order to help with information and prepare you for the day. Most of the speaking will be done by a representative of the Centre, while you will assist with the handling of a harmless reptile and interacting with members of the community at a school, hospital, orphanage or general public. We will allow for each student to take on a small group of people, mostly children, and then according to your talents and strengths, interact with the group.

## **Day 16**

### *Daily Duties*

*Help with more advanced duties in and around the Centre:*

- *Daily assessment, cleaning and maintaining of enclosures.*
- *Upgrading of enclosures.*
- *Record work, record information relating to animals, rainfall, temperature etc.*
- *Feeding of animals.*
- *Medical work with sick or hurt animals.*
- *Health and wellness checks of all animals.*
- *Trips to rescue /capture problem animals from surrounding farms.*
- *Trips to release problem caught animals back into the wild.*
- ***Special feeding day – Large Nile Crocodiles get fed Chickens (Dead)***

## **Day 17**

### *Depart*

- The unfortunate time for us to say our goodbyes has arrived. The morning offers a last chance to have a photo done with your favourite animal and we will mount this into a Key-ring for you to remember us by then collect your certificates and last-minute souvenir shopping. Once all packed and ready, you'll be transported to your bus.