
KILO9 ACADEMY

STUDENT PROGRAMME

WORKING DOGS FOR CONSERVATION

Join us in the African wilderness to help train the next generation of wildlife conservation working dogs. Our experienced instructors will share their knowledge and teach you how to train operational working dogs.

Our facility is situated close to the town of Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), on an anti-poaching unit basecamp, in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. On site accommodation is included.

We cover all disciplines and you will get to work with multiple dogs at various training stages of training.



Training content

Bite work

Working with dogs of different temperaments, drive strengths, and ages, you will run through all stages of bite work. From drive building and channeling to grip development, targeting and man orientation.

Our instructors always place a large emphasis on safety, making sure training is done in a controlled setting so both student and K9 can learn efficiently.



Detection

The detection dogs we train are used to search for a wide variety of substances including illegal wildlife products like pangolin scale, rhino horn, lion bone and more.

Learn the progressive steps of how to develop a detection dog which including building hunt drive, teaching search patters, odour imprinting, teaching the alert, and transitioning to real-world applications.

Tracking/Trailing

We use a combination of tracking and trailing methods to develop a well-rounded dog that can follow human or even animal scent.

We will show you how we apply all these techniques, and customise it to each dog.

In addition to learning the progressive steps of teaching a dog to track, students will have the opportunity to handle and lay tracks for K9s in a wild but safe African environment.

Students will always be under the supervision of trainers and experienced instructors when in wilderness areas.



What to expect

The main focus will be the training of working dogs.

You will be included into our weekly schedule. We train dogs weekday morning (8am - 4pm) The training hours may vary slightly as it depends on the weather and what dogs are currently in training. We have breaks for lunch around 12-1pm

Weekends are set aside for enjoying the lodge or activities in the area. There are optional activities, though some need to be booked in advance. Activities are mentioned on the next page.

Opportunities to participate in conservation activities may arise, but are not guaranteed. These may include: elephant collaring, rhino dehorning, snare removals and more.



Costs and Duration

2 weeks - ZAR 23,800.00

4 weeks - ZAR 45,000.00

6 weeks - ZAR 57,100.00

8 weeks - ZAR 72,000.00

ACCOMMODATION

Our prices include accommodation in a lovely eight-sleeper lodge with two persons sharing per room. Depending on group size, rooms can also be for singles. Each room features an en-suite bathroom and the lodge has a large communal kitchen, dining area, bar and deck with Wi-Fi access.



FOOD

Students are responsible for your own meals and are more than welcome to prepare meals communally. We provide basic kitchen appliances and ingredients, further supplies be purchased in town as needed.

Information

Join us from the 1st of every month.

This will be a real bush experience and you will leave knowing what it is like being a working dog trainer for dogs in conservation.

If you are interested, contact Chrisjan Visser on:

WhatsApp: +27 (0) 74 106 8180

Email: admin@kilo9academy.com



Optional Extra Activities

We have a variety of activities available in our surrounding area.

Game Drives



Tsitsikama National Park



Garden Route

The Garden Route is a scenic road in South Africa connecting several cultural and natural points of interest.

The Tsitsikama forest has many adventure activities like the famous Otter Route hiking trail, zip-line tours, kayaking and the world's highest bridge bungee jump.

Bloukraans Bungee Jump



Treetop Zipline



Kayak adventure



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

You do NOT need to have any experience with dog training or working K9's to attend our program. Although we take our training seriously, given the nature of our work we are extremely passionate about what we do and try to enjoy every aspect of the training experience. Training working K9's is often physically demanding and intense, but we understand everyone has their own personal capabilities and will make our best effort to work within your comfort level.

For those interested in the military side of anti-poaching, please be aware that volunteers will not be able to join on active operations. As foreigners, you are not registered as South African security officers and cannot legally participate in anti-poaching operations.

Do understand that since we are a working dog centre, that when a dog is ready to be deployed, they leave immediately. We do not keep dogs unnecessarily for the programs benefit. Most of the dogs at the centre are in training and not yet fully operational working dogs. You will be working mainly with dogs still in training as this program is about working dog training for conservation.



LOCATION & GETTING TO CAMP:

Our facility is situated in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa.

Generally international students will fly to Johannesburg or Cape Town International, followed by a short connecting flight to Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha) where we will collect you at the airport and transport.