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Head Wildlife Veterinarian Position

The Lao Conservation Trust for Wildlife seeks an interested individual to join our onsite veterinary team as our qualified Head Veterinarian.

LCTW is a non-profit wildlife conservation and rescue center registered in Laos. Our mission is to work jointly with key conservation stakeholders, both within Laos and internationally, to end the illegal wildlife trade. We rescue, rehabilitate, and release native wildlife affected by this trade. In addition, we build animal welfare and conservation capacity through engagement and outreach across Lao PDR.

The successful candidate will be involved in rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing confiscated and donated animals from the illegal wildlife trade. We aim to provide the highest standard of life-long sanctuary for those unsuitable for release. Our site is now a beacon and focal point of conservation efforts in Lao PDR.

We house around 200 animals of varying taxa native to Southeast Asia (mainly Laos). These include bears, a variety of primates, ungulates, reptiles, birds, and other small mammals. LCTW is committed to regional and global conservation; we work alongside other wildlife organizations and the Lao government to aid in biodiversity conservation efforts.

The Role

As the Head Veterinarian, you will lead and manage the operations of the Wildlife Hospital, as well as supervise and mentor the veterinary staff, students, and volunteers. Working closely with the Animal Manager and Director, you will oversee the health and welfare of all animals under LCTW's care and contribute to expanding our conservation programs in Laos.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Leadership and Management:** Supervise and mentor veterinary staff, students, and volunteers. Foster a collaborative and efficient team environment.
- **Hospital Management:** Oversee all operations and management of the onsite wildlife hospital, including maintaining equipment, supplies, and medical inventory. Coordinate medical supply runs to Vientiane and work with various vendors. Develop and implement standard operating procedures (SOPs).
- **Medical Care:** Provide medical treatment to our 200 resident animals, ensuring the highest standards of care possible within the limitations in Laos. Participate in 24/7 rescue missions, provide emergency care to rescued wildlife, and support the rearing of orphaned animals from the illegal wildlife trade.
- **Training and Capacity Building:** Train Lao veterinary staff to enhance the veterinary capacity within LCTW and across Laos. Supervise and educate volunteers, students (both local and international), and visiting researchers, ensuring a productive and educational experience for all.

Additional Responsibilities:

- **Facility Expansion:** Work on expanding the facilities of the Wildlife Hospital to improve its capacity and functionality.
- **Collaboration:** Work closely with the Animal Manager and Director to align veterinary practices with LCTW's conservation goals and strategies. Collaborate with other organizations on research opportunities, capacity building, knowledge sharing, etc.

Essential Qualifications:

- Degree in Veterinary Medicine
- Enthusiasm for supervising and teaching Lao veterinarians, students, volunteers, and staff
- Fluency in English, both written and spoken
- Willingness to overcome language barriers
- Previous work experience in a clinical setting
- Ability to independently handle medical and surgical cases
- Capability to perform general anesthesia in both hospital and field settings
- Comfortable with conducting and interpreting diagnostic imaging (x-ray and ultrasound)
- Ability to work effectively with limited resources
- Strong leadership skills
- Excellent communication abilities
- Strong organizational skills
- Comfort with working in a rural setting
- Patience and flexibility in the workplace
- Self-driven and able to work in challenging conditions with cultural sensitivity
- Valid full driving license from your native country
- Willingness to commit to at least 12 months in this role

Desirable Qualifications:

- Proficient in operating manual transmission vehicles
- Previous experience working in a Wildlife Hospital and/or rehabilitation center
- Experience with and knowledge of Southeast Asian wildlife
- Experience with using immobilizing equipment, such as dart guns and blowpipes
- Some proficiency in Lao and/or Thai
- Understanding of fundraising for the non-profit wildlife sector
- Previous experience using ZIMS or a similar online records system (SPARKS, ARK, MedARKS)
- Have a personal computer to use for work-related administration

Compensation and Benefits:

- Salary: \$900 USD per month
- Housing: Personal one-room house with small loft provided
- Utilities included (hot water, electricity, internet)
- Time Off:
 - Two days off per week
 - Paid Time Off: 24 days per year
 - Paid holidays: 9 days per year
 - Personal Time Off: 15 days per year
- Visa and Travel:
 - 1-year rolling business visa provided
 - Essential long-distance business-related travel expenses within the country covered
 - Assistance with obtaining a Lao driving license
 - Access to an organizational vehicle for personal use when available

Our center is in Ban Xiengletha, approximately a 1.5-hour drive north of Vientiane, the capital of Lao PDR. Although we are in a rural area, our village offers various amenities such as pharmacies, markets, and access to facilities at Nampien Yorla Pa (coffee shop, pool, restaurant, ziplining, hiking, etc.).

Does this sound like your dream job? If you are passionate about helping us conserve and rescue wildlife in Lao PDR, please send your CV and cover letter to info@lctwildlife.org.

Suitable candidates will be contacted for a video conference interview. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

Join us at LCTW and significantly impact wildlife conservation in Laos!