

**Animal Health Technician or Veterinary Nurse , Rift Valley Fever Virus (RVFV) Project, Free State and Northern Cape provinces, South Africa**

ExecuVet (Pty) LTD, Bloemfontein, Free State is seeking a registered Animal Health Technician or Veterinary Nurse to work with veterinary professionals and scientists from the Centre for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases, National Institute for Communicable Diseases, National Health Laboratory Service, Eco Health Alliance, and University of the Free State and University of Pretoria on the Rift Valley Fever Virus research project. This is a multi-national, inter-institutional, multi-disciplinary project collaborating with entomologists, public health and veterinary specialists, a vegetation ecologist, medical scientists and soil scientists from the Free State and the Northern Cape and EcoHealth Alliance and Universities Space Research Association (USRA) from the US.

On-the-job training and mentoring will be provided by the project veterinarians with whom the AHT/VN will work closely in the field, with additional training provided by the vegetation ecologist, soil scientist and medical scientist.

The AHT/VN must have the ability and willingness to learn field techniques, sampling methods, data capture and data entry. There may be a component of laboratory work. The study area is located around Kimberly and Bloemfontein, South Africa.

The duties of the AHT/VN will include collection, recording, evaluation and processing of data and compiling of reports as a support function in this epidemiological survey. AHT/VN will help the project veterinarians with collection and be responsible for the processing and dispatch of blood specimens from livestock species and farmed wildlife to the NICD for diagnostic purposes. . The AHT/VN may be required to assist in the collection of vegetation specimens; entomological (mosquito) specimens, environmental samples including soil cores, water, air temperatures and weather station data.

The AHT/VN must be prepared to work in temperatures between 30 – 45 °C, for long hours (10 -12 hours), 5 days a week, work on the occasional weekend and process and prepare specimens and enter data at night.

The period of employment will start with immediate effect or as determined by the availability of the right candidate, but should be as soon as possible and will extend to end May 2017. There is the possibility of renewal on an annual basis for up to three years.

The candidate must be registered with the SAVC. A valid driver's licence and driving experience is a requirement. The candidate must speak fluent English and be computer literate and able to use Microsoft Office, Excel and enter information on the project data base.

The AHT/VN is responsible for his/her own private accommodation in or near Bloemfontein. All field expenses will be covered which includes travel, accommodation and meals. Field equipment is provided. The salary is negotiable. The employment contract will be drawn up between the AHT/VN and ExecuVet (Pty) Ltd.

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