



ONGAVA

GAME RESERVE

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Job Title: Canine (K9) Handler **Department: Operations & Conservation**

The Canine (K9) Handler is responsible for the care and operational deployment of working dogs in support of anti-poaching and security operations within a conservation landscape.

This role requires an effective and professional partnership between handler and dog, maintaining operational readiness while upholding the highest standards of animal welfare.

Location: Ongava Game Reserve
Employment Type: Full-time

The responsibilities of this position include but are not limited to the following:

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Handle, deploy, and maintain trained K9s for tracking, detection, and patrol duties.
- Ensure the health, welfare and daily care of the K9s, including feeding, grooming, exercise, veterinary needs, etc.
- Maintain discipline and operational readiness of both handler and K9s at all times.
- Keep accurate records of deployments, training progress, health and welfare logs and inventory.
- Responsible for kennels, equipment readiness, K9 unit facilities and training areas.
- Work closely with the Anti-Poaching Units and law enforcement partners when required.
- Conduct regular training exercises to maintain and improve operational capability.
- Maintain the highest standards of ethical treatment, handling and positive training methods for the K9s.

Requirements:

- Strong passion for animal health, welfare and conservation.
- Eagerness to work with and for a K9.
- Proven experience as a K9 handler preferred (tracking and/or detection).
- Basic understanding of animal behaviour, training methods and health care.
- Recognized K9 handling or training certification would be advantageous.
- Physically fit and able to work in remote environments with potential encounters of dangerous wildlife.
- Valid driver's license.
- Basic weapon handling and bush survival skills an advantage.
- Basic administrative skills and record keeping skills.
- Willingness to work irregular hours, including nights and weekends.
- Integrity, discipline and ability to work in a team under pressure.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates who meet the above application criteria are requested to apply for this vacancy by sending an updated CV, motivational letter, qualifications to apply@ongava.com

Closing date: 26 September 2025 (only shortlisted candidates shall be contacted)

For any enquiries, please contact +264 (0) 83 370 9775

