

Praktikumsbericht

Auslandspraktikum

Angaben zur Person und zum Praktikum der/des Studierenden

Studienfach: Tiermedizin

Bachelor/Master/Staatsexamen: Staatsexamen

Praktikumszeitraum: 27.10.2025 – 29.12.2025

Praktikumsort: Fuerteventura, Spanien

Praktikumsinstitution: Oasis Wildlife Park Fuerteventura

Vorgaben:

- Der Praktikumsbericht sollte mindestens 4 Seiten lang sein (Times New Roman, 12pt, 1.5 Zeilenabstand)
- Wenn Sie Namen nennen möchten, geben Sie bitte nicht den vollen Namen der Person an. Nutzen Sie nur den Vornamen oder Abkürzungen wie „L.“.
- Bitte beachten Sie bei der Integration von Fotos, dass Ihr Bericht bei der Veröffentlichung und der damit einhergehenden Verbreitung des Bildmaterials gegebenenfalls die Einwilligung der fotografierten Person/en erfordert.
- Speichern Sie Ihren Bericht als Word-Dokument (max. Dateigröße: 8 MB) und laden Sie ihn auf MoveON hoch.
- Falls Sie ein wenig Inspiration für Ihren eigenen Bericht suchen oder Ihre Erfahrungen mit denen anderer Studierender vergleichen möchten, werfen Sie gerne einen Blick auf unsere [Website](#).

Sie können Ihren Praktikumsbericht beispielsweise wie folgt strukturieren:

1. Planung und Vorbereitung (z.B. Bewerbungsprozess, Organisation der Unterkunft, Sprachkurs)
2. Praktikumsverlauf (Aufgaben, typischer Arbeitstag, Auslastung)
3. Soziale Kontakte
4. Alltag und Freizeit
5. Kosten und Finanzierung (Lebenshaltungskosten, Tipps für Einkäufe)
6. Praktikum und Studium (Konnten Sie im Studium Erlerntes umsetzen, Wie haben sich durch das Praktikum Ihre Studienmotivation und/oder Ihre Einstellung zum künftigen Beruf geändert)



Our Erasmus+ traineeship at Oasis Wildlife was an experience that combined high expectations with unexpected challenges, ultimately offering both personal and professional growth. From the beginning, we approached the traineeship with great enthusiasm, driven by our strong interest in exotic animal medicine and a desire to gain practical, hands-on experience in the field. In preparation for the placement, we went through a thorough application process, coordinated with our university regarding Erasmus+ requirements, and organized our accommodation in Costa Calma. We also took the opportunity to attend a basic Spanish language course, which proved helpful for communicating with staff and navigating daily life in the local community. The careful planning and preparation gave us a sense of readiness and excitement before arriving at the park, though we soon realized that the reality of the traineeship would be very different from our initial expectations.

Upon arrival, it became apparent that the park's only veterinarian, while dedicated and hardworking, was very young and working alone. This situation left little room for structured supervision or mentoring, and we often felt that no one assumed responsibility for guiding our learning or supporting our professional development. As a result, much of our work involved routine cleaning, basic husbandry, and assisting zookeepers with general tasks. While these duties provided insight into the daily operations of a wildlife park, they offered only limited exposure to veterinary medicine, and the opportunities to practice clinical skills were scarce.

Despite this, we tried to make the most of every situation, taking initiative wherever possible to engage with the animals and learn from the available experiences.

A typical day at the park started with our daily bus ride from Costa Calma to La Lajita, arriving at the park by 7:40 in the morning. Work continued until approximately 16:00, with a standard 30-minute break, sometimes a little longer or shorter depending on the day. Mornings usually began with preparing enclosures and performing basic cleaning tasks for a wide variety of species. These routine duties were essential for maintaining the park's daily operations but provided limited direct veterinary experience. Depending on the day, we assisted zookeepers with feeding routines, enrichment activities, or monitoring animal behavior. When the veterinarian was available, we had the opportunity to observe clinical

procedures and assist with tasks where possible, although the limited staffing meant these opportunities were sporadic. During her absence on leave, we were allowed to work in the primate area, participating in feeding, enrichment, and training sessions. Afternoons occasionally included independent projects, such as caring for stray cats in collaboration with local welfare groups, which allowed us to contribute positively to animal welfare despite the limitations of the placement.

Throughout the traineeship, ethical challenges frequently arose. We observed situations that raised serious questions about animal welfare, including the management of stray cats, invasive species, feeder animals, and guard dogs. These issues were difficult to reconcile with best-practice veterinary standards, and our concerns were often not addressed by the park management. Facing these challenges required reflection and judgment, and in response, we sought ways to contribute constructively. In collaboration with local animal welfare organizations, we began caring for the park's stray cats, facilitating sterilizations, and finding suitable housing. These projects allowed us to make a tangible positive impact, even when broader park operations did not meet our expectations for clinical or ethical standards.

Despite these challenges, the experience allowed us to develop important skills and insights that extended beyond veterinary practice. Over time, we became more comfortable navigating the park's organizational structure and learning from the veterinarian during moments when supervision was possible. Although her workload and limited experience constrained her ability to involve us fully in veterinary procedures, we were able to apply some of the knowledge and techniques gained through our studies. Observing animal behavior, assisting with enrichment, and participating in feeding routines offered practical applications of veterinary principles and reinforced our understanding of species-specific care.

Socially, the traineeship was very enriching. We met many other interns from different countries as well as zookeepers, creating a network of contacts and friendships that made the experience more enjoyable and supportive. Sharing daily tasks, exchanging experiences, and working together on animal care projects helped us learn from others while also fostering a sense of camaraderie. Outside of work, we spent much of our free time exploring Costa Calma, relaxing on the beautiful beaches, hiking in the surrounding landscapes, and even trying surfing for the first time. These moments of leisure were not only enjoyable but also essential for maintaining our motivation and energy during demanding days at the park.

Financially, the traineeship required that we cover our own expenses, including food, accommodation, and transportation. While this added an additional layer of responsibility, careful budgeting and practical strategies, such as shopping at local markets and cooking at home, helped us manage the costs. Future trainees should be aware of these requirements and plan accordingly.

In terms of professional development, the traineeship provided a mix of limited veterinary exposure and valuable life experience. While the majority of tasks were not strictly clinical, we were able to implement some of the knowledge gained in our studies, and the situation encouraged us to adapt, problem-solve, and manage responsibilities independently. The experience also offered a deeper understanding of ethical considerations, organizational challenges, and the realities of working with exotic animals in under-resourced environments. These lessons are likely to inform our future studies and professional decisions, reinforcing our commitment to animal welfare and highlighting the importance of practical problem-solving, resilience, and adaptability in challenging situations.



Ultimately, our time at Oasis Wildlife did not fully meet our expectations for a veterinary-focused Erasmus+ traineeship. The absence of experienced veterinary staff, limited supervision, unclear responsibilities, and the predominance of routine cleaning and zookeeper duties restricted the learning opportunities available. Ethical concerns regarding the care and management of certain species further highlighted the limitations of the placement.

Nevertheless, the experience was profoundly educational in terms of personal growth and life skills. We learned to navigate difficult situations, take initiative, and make meaningful contributions even in challenging circumstances.

Despite the professional limitations, the traineeship also offered memorable positive experiences. Flexible work schedules, supportive interactions with the veterinarian when possible, and engaging in primate care during her absence provided learning opportunities. The combination of work and leisure, including time at the beach, hiking, and excursions with friends, made the stay enjoyable and balanced. Collaborating with other interns and local animal welfare groups allowed us to make a positive impact, strengthening our sense of purpose and satisfaction.

In conclusion, while we would not recommend Oasis Wildlife as a veterinary-focused placement for future Erasmus+ students in its current form, the traineeship offered valuable insights and life lessons. It reinforced our motivation for our studies, strengthened our problem-solving and organizational skills, and provided personal growth through adaptation to challenging circumstances. Our experiences here demonstrated the importance of resilience, ethical awareness, and practical engagement, making the placement a unique learning opportunity that extended beyond purely clinical veterinary experience.

