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Lyon, Saturday 25th September 2021

Object: Veterinary Internship at CCF next summer

Dear Mister, Miss,

I am a fourth-year veterinarian student in Lyon (France) at Vetagro-sup. I am also a biologist student who follow a double cursus between the vet school and the ENS de Lyon where I sanctioned a bachelor in biology (2018).

I study veterinary medicine and get formation in biology (especially ecology) because I would like to work as a vet and researcher to protect the wildlife in France and abroad. I am very concerned about the ecological issues and the loss of biodiversity everywhere in the planet. My passion for animals and their protection is not new, I have already done two volunteering missions as soon as I turned 18. I went three weeks in the south of France working in a refuge for turtles. I also worked as a volunteer four weeks in a wild brown bears refuge in the Croatian mountains. These two summer experiences were unbelievable as an animal lover as well as a human being because it taught me how to work as a team, with responsibilities, with pressure to do the things well. Furthermore, I especially felt useful.

This summer, it would be my fourth summer as a veterinary student and I want to try again to join the CCF for four weeks. I have built my internships path by starting to go into small animals' clinics, equine clinics and rehabilitation centre. In this coming year, I have already booked two more internships: 3 weeks in large animals (cows) clinic and 4 weeks in a zoo. The next step is CCF.

In last September, I went to Marseille for the IUCN congress as it appeared to be "the place to be" for attending inspiring conferences and for meeting people invested in conservation. I had the chance to meet Dr Marker, Dr Yashphe, Betty from CCF Italia and Christian from CCF France. It was a privilege to be able to discuss with them. I got a lot of explanations about their own missions and how CCF works in Namibia, around the world but also in Somaliland. I managed to keep in touch with them and I hope I would be able to be part of CCF France as well as meeting again Dr Marker in Namibia.

As I told Dr Marker, I admire the the work you do there for conservation and research: studying cheetahs' natural behaviours and population dynamics, developing strategies to reduce human-cattle-wildlife conflicts, protecting cubs from illegal trade that is terrible to see from Europe, etc. I would like to work by your side for a while, discovering the clinics, meeting the scientists (researchers, geneticists), developing my network, sharing abilities and experiences. As a veterinary student I will be able to help, as a biology student I will be able to bring my curiosity and sense of meticulous research work we learn at the ENS and at my two research internships I made (France and Sweden).

This internship is really crucial in my construction as a professional. Now I really want my experiences to be valuable and as I repeat, coming to CCF fits perfectly with it.

In 2022 I will continue my research degree, doing a Ms of biology. That year I will have to do a six-months-long internship. I already need to think about it and my idea is to see how ecologists work at the CCF. This idea of "first contact" will be valuable for me and suitable.

I could have a better knowledge of what is conservation work in Africa and I could meet people with maybe I will be working with later on.

To conclude, my veterinary internship next summer will be useful immediately for my medicine knowledge and abilities but even more for my personal construction and my search for an Ms Internship.

I hope I succeeded in this short letter to express you all the motivations I have to come at CCF.
Best regards,

Aurélien DUFLON

