

Faculty joins Africa Geographic's KNP K-9 anti-poaching dog food drive as drop-off point for World Rhino Day

15 September 2016



Photos: Janine Avery, Africa Geographic

For all the animal lovers out there, we call on you to join us in a Dog Food Drive - For the Love of Dogs & Rhinos, an initiative started by Africa Geographic. Their general manager, Janine Avery, is calling on the public to come together on #WorldRhinoDay and support the K9 Unit in the Kruger National Park by donating food for the canine heroes in the fight against poaching **from 22 September to 30 September**. The Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Pretoria's Onderstepoort Campus will also be one of the official drop-off points in the Pretoria-area through its Pharmacy in the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH).

While many of us enjoy the Kruger National Park as tourists, there are poachers somewhere in that vast wilderness and a ranger with a working dog, hot on their heels, who live in the knowledge that they might have to give up their lives for a cause bigger than themselves. These dogs, along with their handlers and the rangers, risk their lives every day to save our precious rhinos. Much time and money goes into training and maintaining these dogs, and many of the successful poacher arrests have been due to these hard working dogs. But these dogs need our support. One of the easiest ways to keep this four-legged force mobilised is through the donation of food. Hence the creation of a Dog Food Drive. If you love dogs and our rhinos - simply donate a bag of food and we will make sure it gets to the rhino dogs.

There are three ways you can get involved in the Dog Food Drive:

1. Drop off a bag of food at a drop-off point near you! Kicking off on #WorldRhinoDay the public will have from 22 September 2016 until the 30th of September to drop off as many bags of dog food as they can to a selection of drop-off points around South Africa. Please only purchase Hill's Performance or Hill's Advanced Fitness as this is what the dogs are used to and any change in diet can affect performance (speciality vet stores should stock these brands). These hard working dogs need very specific and reliable

food, that consistently provides all the nutrients and energy they need. These foods are designed for very active working dogs, with not only extra protein and energy, but also the correct minerals and antioxidants too! [FIND A DROP-OFF POINT HERE](#) - No drop-off point near you? Collect from your friends and family and [email us to arrange collection](#).

2. Buy a bag of food online via [Yuppiepet](#). This amazing online pet shop has discounted the Hill's Performance and Hill's Advanced Fitness pet food by 20% for the Dog Food Drive! Purchase your bag online and Hill's will deliver the food directly to the K9 Unit in the Kruger National Park. If you only have goodies in your cart for our rhino dogs then please use the following shipping address on checkout: Kruger National Park (street address & city), Mpumalanga, 0000 (postal code), South Africa. You do not pay anything towards shipping fees. You can also donate R50 to this cause on [yuppiepet.co.za](#) and this money will go directly to buying food from Hill's for the dogs.

3. Donate money to the cause! Live overseas? Can't afford a bag or want to give a little bit extra? Send an email to knpk9unit@gmail.com requesting the bank details which will be sent to you, along with a reference which should be used when making the transfer. Get your friends, family and school involved - from R10 to R10,000 all donations are welcome and all funds go directly back to the K9 Unit in the Kruger National Park through the SANParks Honorary Rangers, the official SANParks volunteer organisation.

Maj Gen (ret) Johan Jooste qualifies the canine involvement in anti-poaching rather simply by saying, "they are game changers". And they truly are. Kruger's canine unit sees about 52 dogs operating in a Big Five area that many now refer to as a war zone. These hardworking dogs have a number of different functions, including the tracking of poachers in the park and the detection of contraband at entrance and exit points.

While the dogs are lovingly cared for by the team in the Kruger National Park, the cost of fighting the rhino poaching crisis is so extremely high that any funding has a variety of resources it needs to be spread between. Something as simple as providing dog food means that vital monies can be spent elsewhere and on other means to combat poaching. The more we can help, in any direction we can help, the better.

And with your help we can show our anti-poaching dogs just how much we care. Our rhino dogs are thanking you in advance for your generosity! #fortheloveofdogsandrhinosaurs #rhinodogs

For more information email Janine Avery from Africa Geographic at janine@africageographic.com

To donate dog food at the Onderstepoort Faculty, please visit the Pharmacy (Tel: (012) 529 8197) in the Faculty's Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH). The dogs of the K-9 Unit in the Kruger National Park are only used to the Hill's Performance and Hill's Advanced Fitness brands (see the poster **below**). Any other donated dog food will be sent to other dog units in other parks throughout the country.

To read Africa Geographic's blog please go to <http://africageographic.com/blog/dog-food-drive-love-dogs-rhinosaurs/>

Author CvB

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DOG FOOD DRIVE

for the love of dogs and rhinos



Support the anti-poaching K9s of Kruger National Park by dropping off a bag of dog food between the 22nd and 30th of September 2016.

Please only buy Hill's Performance or Hill's Advanced Fitness as this is what the dogs are used to and a change in diet can affect performance



WE ARE A DROP-OFF POINT:

Pharmacy of the
Onderstepoort Veterinary
Academic Hospital (OVAH),
OP Faculty of Veterinary Science
Onderstepoort Campus,
Soutpan Road,
Onderstepoort
Times: Mon – Fri: 9am – 3pm
Hill's Advanced Fitness
can also be bought here