

Volunteering with Street Dog Care

Are you a dedicated, passionate, reliable person who wants to transform the lives of Kathmandu's homeless dogs? Are you looking for adventure and want to make the world a better place for animals? Then Street Dog Care wants your help!

We are very grateful for your interest in Street Dog Care. If it weren't for our loyal volunteers, Street Dog Care would not be! We are seeking hardworking, motivated volunteers, to offer a compassionate hand in helping to alleviate the suffering of Nepal's street dogs. Volunteering at Street Dog Care is very challenging- but very rewarding work. Please read over this pamphlet to determine if a Street Dog Care volunteer opportunity is for you. If you feel you would make a good fit, we look forward to your application and accepting you in our Street Dog Care family!



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I. OVERVIEW and BACKGROUND

First, we'd like to give you an insight into our work, please visit the following sites to see our work in action and meet the dogs you will be helping:

Website: www.streetdogcare.org

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/StreetDogCare>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ff9SsBOG2k>

Betterplace.org: <http://www.betterplace.org/de/projects/5512-street-dog-care>

What is Street Dog Care?

Street Dog Care (SDC) was founded in 2009, and is a Non Government Organization (NGO) in Boudha, Kathmandu, Nepal. Our mission is to improve the health and living conditions of street dogs, to create a healthier environment for animals and humans. The SDC team consists of a local veterinarian, staff, and volunteers. Our activities are carried out through the SDC Dog Care Centre, where up to 20 dogs in serious condition are treated until they are healed or adopted, as well as the weekly SDC camps, held in a public market near Boudha Stupa every week. We give treatment for injuries, illnesses, skin diseases, and infections, in addition to annual rabies vaccinations. SDC facilitates domestic and international adoption when possible, there are currently several street dogs who are now happily living their lives across the globe thanks to SDC's work. SDC also provides community education through educational brochures, flyers, school visits, etc.

SDC's founder is Andrea Bringmann and from Germany. Street Dog Care is a registered NGO of Germany and Nepal.

Street Dog Care Motto, Vision, Mission:

Motto: Let us work together to give all beings a better life.

Vision: To bring about a time where there are no more suffering street dogs in Nepal.

Mission: Street Dog Care aims to improve the health and living conditions of street dogs in Nepal, creating a healthier environment for all sentient beings.

Where does Street Dog Care function?

Street Dog Care provides care to dogs in Boudha , a district of Kathmandu. Boudha is the home of many exiled Tibetans and is the area of several monasteries and stupas. Street Dog Care works mainly with the dogs around the large Boudha stupa, which can be seen in many photos on our website, Facebook page, and videos.



What is Street Dog Care's work?

Street Dog Care provides vet care directly on the streets, namely during our weekly Saturday camp, at the local veterinarian clinic, or at our Dog Care Centre. Dogs in need of long term care stay temporarily at our Dog Care Centre. From the Dog Care Centre, dogs are either returned to their homes on the streets, or when possible, adopted to a new family.

How many dogs stay at the Dog Care Centre?

The Dog Care Centre provides space for 20 to 25 dogs. Some dogs are recovering injury, while others are healthy but disabled and waiting for adoption.

How many people help at Street Dog Care ?

Currently, Street Dog Care has 4 local employees, and we may have up to 2-3 long term volunteers. Local veterinarians provide the vet care.

Does Street Dog Care provide spay/neuter or ABC (animal birth control)?

ABC is not the primary objective of Street Dog Care. Street Dog Care's mission to provide medical care for homeless ill and injured dogs, although sterilization is often performed during other procedures, especially in the case of CTVT (Canine Transmissible Venereal Tumour). SDC does not participate in ABC mass sterilization programs.

Is SDC a No-Kill organization?

Yes, SDC is no-kill. SDC works under a policy of natural death, no euthanasia. At Street Dog Care we feel our role is to provide medical care, pain management, and a peaceful environment for dying dogs to spend their final days- but death is not in our hands and we do not euthanize under any circumstance. Working with street dogs means facing death on a regular basis, and often our centre functions not only as a rehabilitation centre, but also as a hospice. Dying dogs are treated with the utmost respect and are given special care and pain management; they are made very comfortable while awaiting their passing. Burials in a peaceful environment are also performed.

In other words, during their final days Street Dog Care dogs are treated just like people in hospice care. As we do not euthanize humans, Street Dog Care does not euthanize dogs.

Furthermore, Street Dog Care operates in a Buddhist dominated area and is supported by local Tibetan monasteries. Within Buddhist culture, euthanasia is not accepted. Euthanasia would mean the loss of community acceptance and support.

We realize this perspective differs widely from western culture of animal euthanasia and volunteers should be comfortable with this policy.



II. VOLUNTEER OVERVIEW/ WHAT TO EXPECT

The work of a Street Dog Care volunteer is challenging, yet extremely important and very rewarding. During your time with us, you must be ready to provide care to animals and follow the instructions of management at any time. For this reason we seek volunteers who are absolutely dedicated with high perseverance and endurance.

If this is your first time working in a developing country, be aware that all your romantic notions might not be true. Developing nation work is hard and dirty- yet very rewarding! You will not have the same resources in Nepal that you will have in developed countries. You should not expect the same hygienic conditions-even at the vet clinic- as you would in developed nations. Acceptance of this culture is a must for you to enjoy your time in Nepal and with SDC.

Although volunteering with Street Dog Care is an unpaid position, the volunteer positions are extremely important and we require volunteers to be reliable. The dogs count on our volunteers- If you don't show up for your work period, the dogs will not get fed, treated, etc! Therefore, if you accept a certain period, you must be willing to commit to that time, and we must be able to rely on you completely during that time period. Unfortunately, if you leave prematurely, the dogs are the ones who suffer, because management and other volunteers are unexpectedly left shorthanded. Overall, we rely immensely on our volunteers and the dogs rely immensely on our volunteers! So if you agree to volunteer with us, please plan your schedule so that you may stay your entire time-and so that more dogs can benefit from your helping hands!

If you are unsure about your time availability, please commit to the minimum time and you can always lengthen your stay.



What about my expenses, does SDC provide accommodations?

Since Street Dog Care is a small NGO and our budget is devoted entirely to the dogs. Volunteers will be responsible for covering travel, accommodation, meal, and all other expenses, as well as gaining providing their own health insurance and and immigration formalities. However, we may be able to help you to find a simple room for rent in Boudha. Charges are about 150\$ per month. You will find some options in chapter III.

I compensated for my volunteer work?

Monetary compensation is not provided for this volunteer position. SDC is a small NGO and our small budget is devoted entirely to the dogs. This is why we rely on compassionate volunteer labor!



What qualifications do I need to volunteer with SDC?

- Must love dogs!
- All experience levels, professions, disciplines are welcome!
- Without exception- reliability, commitment, and endurance. The animals must be able to rely on you!
- A deep passion for animal care, a compassionate heart, and kind nature.
- A basic understanding and/or experience with dogs.
- And adventurous spirit and good sense of humor.
- We need people who are not put off by difficult situations and unpredictable problems. This is Nepal-these unpredictable situations arise often. You must be willing to accept them, work through them, and have patience.
- You must be independent and require no care on our part. Nepal is an exotic country, but very poor, you should be comfortable spending your time in a developing nation!



What is expected of me?

- We seek highly motivated people who do not get discouraged at the first difficult situation. We want people who are seriously willing to use their knowledge and skills for the benefit of the animals.
- We expect you to tackle problems where needed! Directions may come from management, but we also would like you to work independently and provide care and a helping hand when you see the need.
- Be creative! If you see a solution to a problem-make it so!
- Patience is required when dealing with stray dogs who are not accustomed to humans and socialization. Remember-street dogs are not the same as pet dogs!
- You must be able to adapt to local circumstances and the environment. You must be able to do your best under the circumstances presented to you (both personally and within the organization). Accommodations are much less than in Western countries. You must ask yourself... Do I feel comfortable living in a simple environment? Can I compromise comfort and live in a developing country with low living standards and poor hygienic conditions?

- Please remember that you are confronted with serious and potentially infectious diseases such as rabies. You should inform yourself on proper precautions before your time with us.

If you meet these requirements, then you are a perfect fit for our Street Dog Care family!

And we look forward to welcoming you as a partner in our efforts to make the world a better place for street dogs.



What will I do as a volunteer?

The tasks asked of you depends on your interests and qualifications Please note that in a small organization such as Street Dog Care everyone needs to pitch in with many tasks, even if you are overqualified for some tasks.

The following activities may be performed by volunteers:

- Daily care for the animals, treat them with mindfulness, give and receive affection
- Cleaning kennels, bedding, instruments, house, dishes, etc
- Bathe and groom dogs
- dog feeding.
- Transporting dogs to the veterinarian clinic
- Participation at the weekly Saturday Camp
- Taking responsibility for dogs in the healing and rehabilitation time
- Care for sick, injured animals, relieve their suffering and accompany them to their death
- Create and manage documentation
- For specialists: consulting, create medical guidelines, etc.
- Management of instruments, medicines, and dressings

- Actions to educate the community, especially children
- Assisting in the placement and adoption of dogs
- Participation in promotions, such as annual rabies vaccination
- Maintenance and perform repairs of house, kennels, etc
- Managing office tasks such as photocopying, etc.
- Inventory / warehouse structure, manage, acquire supplies (medicines, dressings , equipment and accessories)
- * Other miscellaneous tasks

For experienced workers or professionals, other tasks are possible. Please describe any special skills or experience when applying!



What is my daily routine at Street Dog Care?

Every day is different. It may be completely chaotic and very stressful or simple and peaceful. You will never know what to expect. It may be that one day many critically ill dogs arrive simultaneously. Or it may be that one day 5 volunteers are at the centre with 3 fairly healthy dogs. It may be that a nice donation was received and you have plenty of medication. It may be that the pharmacy is out of painkillers, and severely suffering dogs are at the centre and you alone must cope with them. One day you may desperately need to take a dog to the vet, but the taxi drivers are on strike. All of these situations are possible. There is no well-ordered sequence in Nepal. Situations in Nepal are often beyond our control, and you as a volunteer must improvise to make the best of the situation, be flexible, and able to withstand even if none of your solutions work. These unpredictable situations are in the nature of developing countries, and there is nothing that Street Dog Care can do to change this. In short-don't expect situations to run smoothly in Nepal as they would in your western home country. Don't expect to have anticipated results as you would from your western home country. Developing countries are not like developed countries. Patience, perseverance, good humor, and dedication are required to work in developing countries!



How many hours a day will I work?

Volunteers contribute 6 hours per day, 6 days a week. Volunteers who live permanently in Boudha, feel free to make individual appointments with us. Please understand that we require a strict adherence to the agreed work periods, even though you are not a paid employee, we will respect and treat you as one, and would appreciate the same responsible behavior of an employee. Please inform us if you are sick or for other reasons cannot join the centre.

What self-expectations should I have?

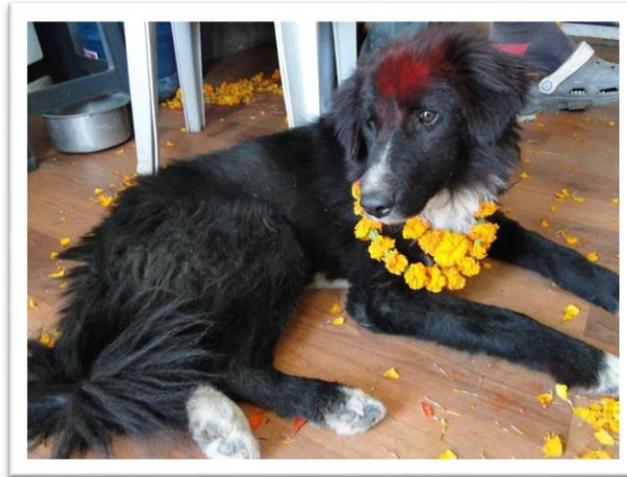
Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world. You must be prepared that nothing is what you are used to in western countries. This includes the medical care - of both humans and other animals- which is at lower standards than western countries. At Street Dog Care there are times when only few resources are available to deal with very serious injuries and illnesses. Dogs who could have lived with western vet care, may not have the same chances in Nepal. Unfortunately many dogs die from illness and injury despite all our efforts. Please see the section "Is SDC a No-Kill organization?" above for more details.

Furthermore, the culture shock of a major Asian city is not to be underestimated. Remember that the people here live in a culture and religion that is much different than western cultures. These

differences require a high level of personal empathy and adaptability. We ask of you a respectful attitude in any situation dealing with our domestic employees and partners.

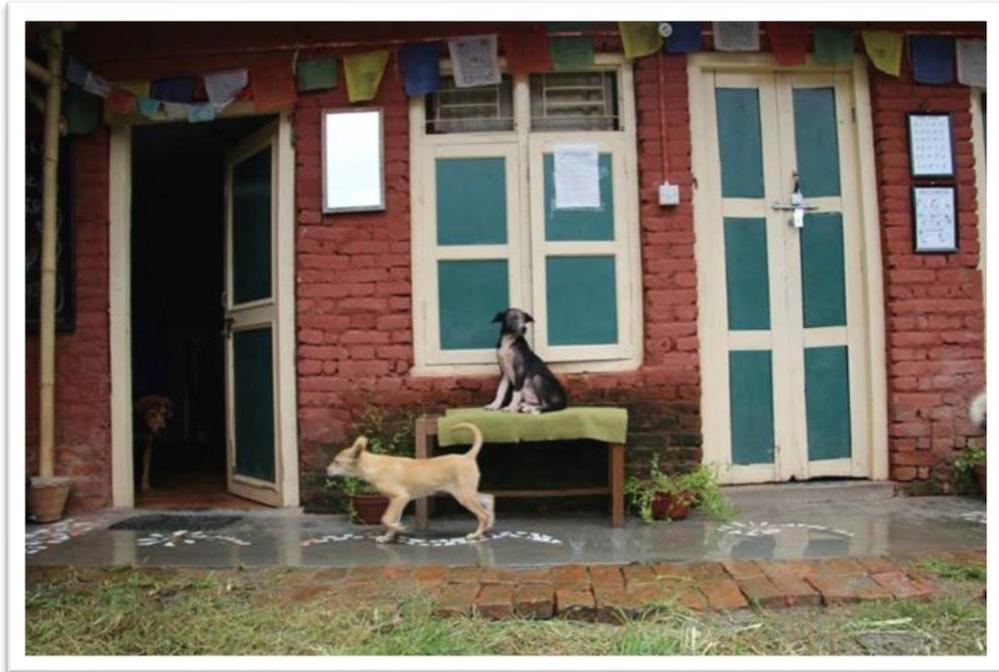
You should be comfortable adapting to local circumstances and the environment. Accommodations are much less than in Western countries. You must ask yourself... Do I feel comfortable living in a simple environment? Can I compromise comfort and live in a developing country with low living standards and poor hygienic conditions?

Situations in developing nations are unpredictable. You will likely go many hours with no electricity. One day you may have internet and phone access, and the next day you will not. Taxi drivers may go on strike and leave you without transportation. Situations such as these occur on a regular basis. Do you have the patience and acceptance for these unpredictable situations?



Does SDC accept volunteer veterinarians?

Yes. However, veterinarians who wish to assist or operate must be registered with the Nepal Veterinary Council. Please note that registration with Nepal Vet Council requires a considerable cost (currently about U.S. \$150). Unfortunately, Street Dog Care at this time does not have the budget to cover this cost and ask that any volunteer vet interested in operating cover this cost as a donation. Please bring your relevant qualifications and documents for registration.



What is the minimum and maximum time commitment?

We ask that volunteers stay a minimum of 3 consecutive weeks of 6 hours per day, 6 days a week. We ask this minimum because familiarizing volunteers to the dogs and work takes time. Preference is given to applicants for extended periods. There is no maximum length of stay, we would love for you to stay as long as you'd like!

However, for experienced volunteers or professionals, shorter times are possible. Please inquire when applying!

Please remember, if you accept a certain period, you must be willing to commit to that time, and we must be able to rely on you completely during that period. Unfortunately, if you leave prematurely, the dogs are the ones who suffer. So if you agree to volunteer with us, please plan your schedule so that you may stay your entire time-and so that more dogs can benefit from your helping hands!

If you are unsure about your time availability, please commit to the minimum time and you can always lengthen your stay.



What do I get from working at Street Dog Care?

Although monetary compensation is not possible with this volunteer position, the benefits you gain will last a lifetime. For your time with us, you will get:

- The knowledge that your work has saved countless dogs' lives and created a happier, healthier, more loving environment for Nepal's homeless street dogs.
- The satisfaction of accomplishing something extraordinary and being a part of something bigger than yourself.
- The exhilaration of an adventure in an exotic environment.
- The personal experience of having overcome a huge challenge and pushing your comfort zones.
- A large gain in experience and knowledge that can be applied to future work and career.
- A new perspective on life, living, and dying.
- Stories that will last a lifetime.
- The awareness that you have personally made the world a better place.
- Perhaps most importantly, dogs who will never forget you and who will love you forever.
- ...and possibly a new canine best friend who insists on following you home:)

Many of our volunteers' lives have been changed after their time with SDC. Your time here will be unlike anything you've ever experienced!

Volunteer completion certificates are also available upon request.

Will I be cared for by SDC? Will SDC give me a guide?

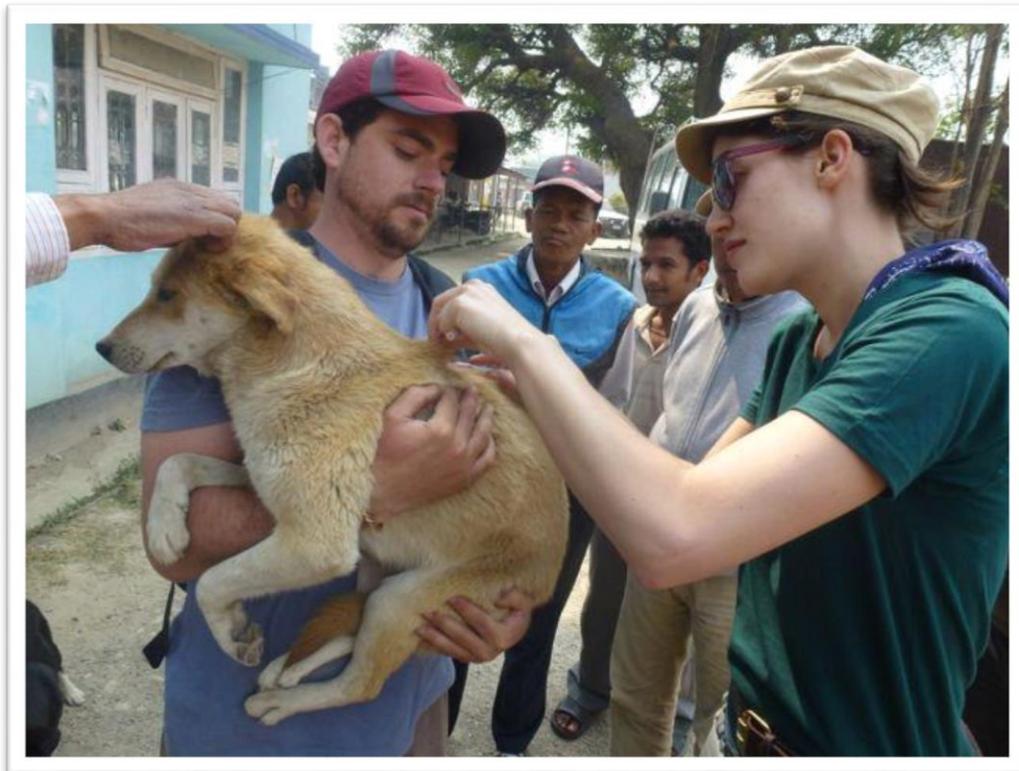
We ask that you prepare thoroughly so that you can cope with everyday problems yourself. SDC is a small NGO with limited human resources; many of our fulltime volunteers and staff are working other jobs as well, so unfortunately we do not have the capacity to offer you a guide. In this respect we recommend you arrive a few days before you begin work at Street Dog Care to find a room and orient yourselves to the new environment.

Is there an age limit for volunteering with SDC ?

The minimum age to be a Street Dog Care volunteer is 18. There is no maximum age!

What about smoking and alcohol, etc?

The entrance of the Tibetan Monastery, Kopan, welcomes visitors with a large sign that reads: "Please refrain from killing, stealing, lying, intoxicants including Tobacco." We make this our policy as well. No drugs, alcohol, or smoking is allowed at the center.



Can I travel during my stay with SDC?

We ask that you please arrange your travels before or after you stay with Street Dog Care.

Since the dogs need to get accustomed to each new volunteer, we need a commitment for a period of at least 3 weeks, 6 hours a day, 6 days a week. During this period, you must be available without interruption (exceptions can be made for experience volunteers, professionals, other special circumstances, please inquire).

What do I do in case of emergency?

Please contact the Civic Medical Clinic near Indian Embassy 977 1 4258554 or 4101601, or the Stupa Community Hospital in Boudha, 97714466287 or 4488372. SDC cannot be responsible for accidents.

Do I have to pay fees to volunteer at SDC?

No. SDC raises no administrative fees. Any donations will go entirely to the dogs.



III. How to prepare your trip to Kathmandu

We have compiled this short section to help you prepare for your trip to Kathmandu. More detailed travel information can be found in any travel book, such as Lonely Planet. We highly suggest you research in more detail. You should also check with your local embassy for any steps specific to your country.



What documents do I need to travel to Nepal?

For most international citizens you need a visa for Nepal. Information on how to apply is available on the websites of the Nepalese Embassy and consulates of your home country. Visas are typically easy to acquire, and can be acquired at the Kathmandu airport upon arrival. Please note: visas require that you are in possession of at least 6 months valid passport, and you need 2 photos and cash (no credit card) in US dollars or Euros only (no rupees).

This is my first visit to Nepal , how should I proceed?

We recommend that you arrive at least 2 to 3 days before your time with Street Dog Care. You need this time to settle in and find your way in Kathmandu. You can reserve a room in one of the many guesthouses around the Boudha Stupa . Boudha is a popular tourist destination and many guesthouses, restaurants, clothing shops, and markets are within walking distance. Explore the area and take a look around where you can do all the errands for the next few weeks. Get to know the places where you can orient yourself (in Kathmandu, there are no street signs or house numbers). Find convenient internet cafes and payphones (STD), and find where to buy a SIM card (for cell phone use). After you have acquainted yourself with Boudha for a few days, contact Street Dog Care and visit the Dog Care Centre.

If this is your first time to Nepal, before your arrival, we highly recommend you read travel guidebooks, such as Lonely Planet, visit travel online forums, visit travel websites, and other resources to prepare yourself for life in Nepal. Nepal is a very poor developing nation and very different from developed nations. Please prepare yourself for life in this country.

You should also familiarize yourself with your local embassy, know the location and have the number handy. In case of any major emergency, contact your embassy.



Do I need vaccinations?

It is important that you update your vaccinations before traveling to Nepal or any developing nation . To volunteer at Street Dog Care, it would be highly recommended that you have a basic vaccination against rabies. Rabies is a serious threat in Nepal. Please educate yourself about rabies safety before your arrival to Street Dog Care.

Many health insurance companies cover the cost of travel vaccinations and prophylaxis.

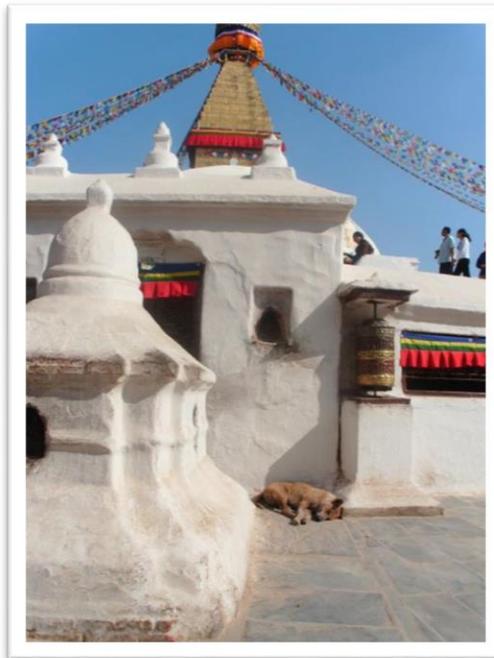
Please bring a copy of your vaccination certificate (in case of emergency, doctors will require this).

How am I insured?

You are responsible for your insurance coverage. Street Dog Care does not provide insurance coverage. We strongly recommend that you purchase a travel-specific insurance coverage (particularly health insurance). Please bring confirmation of your coverage to Street Dog Care.

How do I get from the airport to Boudha?

You should organize your own taxi from the airport to your room. Many taxis are available at the airport and are easy to arrange. If this is your first time to Nepal and you have no experience in negotiating prices, we suggest you use the pre-paid taxi service. You will find a pre-paid taxi stand on the outside of the airport building (as of winter 2014). A drive to Boudha should cost about 800 NRs. If you are willing to negotiate, you can get a taxi for 500 NRs . Many guesthouses provide pick up service.



Where can I stay?

You can stay in private rooms, different hotels or guesthouses within walking distance of the Dog Care Centre (from NRs 400 per night depending on season). See below a list of private rooms or guest houses for rent:

- Ram DVD Shop, 9841242224, rents private rooms with shared kitchen
- Lobsang Sangpo, 9801083426; lobsangsangbo@gmail.com, rents studio apartments (100-200\$ per month)

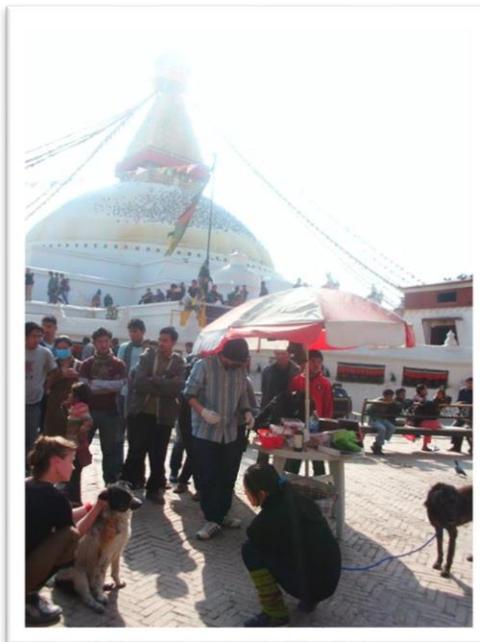
- Kailash Guest house, 9813756309 danu.sherpa@yahoo.com (very inexpensive, about 5\$/ 500 rs per night)
- Pal Rabten Khansar Guesthouse 01-4914911 or 9841213844, prkguesthouse@yahoo.co.in, about 10\$ / 1000 rs. per night
- Mandala Hotel at the Stupa 014916597 (very modern, nice, hot shower, wifi, expensive hotel at Stupa, about \$30 USD/night)

Who can help me with everyday problems?

Since Street Dog Care is a small NGO with limited human resources, we cannot guarantee we can provide help with everyday problems, nor can we offer a guide. You should prepare so that you can cope alone with essentially all the challenges of a developing country. The people here are friendly and helpful and you should have no problems getting by. For serious emergencies your respective embassy is responsible. Please inquire in advance on means of reaching your embassy.

Can I use a mobile phone? What is SIM card? How do I get a SIM card?

Mobile phones are very cheap in Nepal and can be used with a prepaid Ncell SIM card. There are many small shops in Boudha where SIM cards are sold (simply ask a shop and you will be directed). You need a copy of your passport and passport photos for SIM card and cell phone purchase. The cost depends on the offer, but no more than several hundred NRs . Reloading SIM cards are available on every street corner.



What about internet connection?

Many guesthouses and small restaurants offer free Wi-Fi. Otherwise, there are several Internet cafes or you can simply use it on your smartphone with Ncell service. So long as the electricity is working and the internet connection is working, you will have no problems getting online.

How expensive is life in Kathmandu?

Depending on how you live, living can be very cheap in Kathmandu. There are quite acceptable, basic accommodations starting at about 500 per night. You can also find first-class hotels in the standard international price class.

Food at the local markets is inexpensive. Dining out for two at a nice restaurant can be for just a few hundred NRs .

Local transportation, such as buses and tuk tuk, is very cheap (30 NRs from Boudha in the city center with a TUK TUK). A trip to the country by bus (though Nepal - style , ie an adventure) costs a few hundred rupees. However, cab rides can be expensive because of rising gasoline prices well.

How can I change money?

In Boudha there are many small exchange offices where you can exchange cash (Euros , dollars) to NRs . Payment by credit card is not common, most simple guest houses and hotels do not accept credit cards. But there are several ATMs in Boudha. (Please note that in Kathmandu power outages are frequent and then the ATMs do not work, so plan accordingly).

Money can be exchanged at the airport? Better would be to change in KTM and have only a small amount of NRs? You will need some Rupees for the TAXI from airport.

Do I have to be careful when eating and drinking?

Yes. You have to keep strictly to the precautions that apply to all developing countries with inadequate hygiene. Please drink only bottled water & use it to brush your teeth. Otherwise, the basic rule is: Peel it, cook it, or leave it . In the rainy season in particular consume no salads or other uncooked foods. Please inform yourself sufficiently about the health risks in Nepal. Travel guide books like Lonely Planet will provide you with detailed information.

IV: I WANT TO BECOME INVOLVED!

I have read everything and want to help the dogs! What's my first step?

If you have made the decision to travel to Nepal and volunteer with Street Dog Care, thank you and we look forward to accepting you into our SDC family!

- send your request directly to volunteer@streetdogcare.org
- Include your desired time period, and if possible, with alternative dates. If none of your preferred dates are available, would you like to be placed on the waiting list?

From all of us at Street Dog Care... Thank you for your interest and support!

