Job Description

Living Collection Assistant - Aviculture **Grade:** 5

Directorate: Operations. **Location:** Slimbridge

Reporting to: Living Collection Supervisor – Exhibits/Avian Breeding Centre (as assigned).

Main function of post: To assist and provide cover for the Aviculture section where needed within the Exhibits and Avian Breeding Centre.

Supervisory responsibilities: Volunteers and Placements.

Main duties of the post

- To assist with the detailed management of all animals and areas within the aviculture section; to include feeding, training and behavioural management, general maintenance and development of enclosures

- To ensure that the welfare of the living collection is of the highest standard in collaboration with the presentations team, veterinary team, and animal management team. By doing regular health and behaviour monitoring and by maintaining exhibits, isolation and quarantine facilities and other types of enclosures.

- Maintain exhibits to a high standard by carrying out enclosure maintenance, ensuring life support systems are running correctly and vegetation and ground works is done when needed.

- To assist with the detailed management of the breeding avian species at Slimbridge centre, including observing breeding priorities, nest and egg monitoring and the rearing and management of neonatals.

- To ensure scrupulous hygiene standards are practised and maintained in the Avian Breeding Centre, avian exhibits, and general site.

- To ensure high levels of biosecurity are practised and maintained at all times, in all areas including visitor areas.

- To assist with both written and ZIMS records for the avian collection, as defined by the Line Manager.

- To engage with our avian veterinary team and assist where guided.

- To engage the visitors, providing information, giving spot talks and guided tours as part of the core product and events programmes.

- To comply with and promote all Health and Safety regulations including the correct operation of machinery and use of tools.

- To be responsible for engaging with the WWT Sustainability Statement, being aware of negative environmental impacts and incorporating sustainable ways of working within your role.

- To interact with our visitors and supporters in a positive way, shaping unforgettable experiences and helping them understand and connect to wetlands.

In addition to the duties and responsibilities listed, the post holder is required to perform any other reasonable duties that may be assigned by the supervisor shown above, from time to time.

Date raised: April 2016 **Amended:** March 2025

Person Specification

1. Qualifications

Essential:

- FdSc/BSc in zoology-related subject

2. Experience

Essential:

- Relevant practical animal experience
- Understanding of modern animal welfare
- Computer literacy.

Desirable:

- Experience in a similar role would be an advantage.
- Previous avicultural awareness in maintaining exhibit for visiting public.
- Experience with veterinary medication would be an advantage.
- Demonstrable ability to carry out physical countryside management work, including the use of power tools inc brush cutter, ride on and push mowers). Training will be given.

3. Managerial & Supervisory

Essential:

- Ability to allocate basic tasks to casual staff and volunteers.

Type of staff	Number managed	Number supervised
Employed Staff	0	0
Volunteers / Placements	0	Up to 10
Contractors	0	0

Desirable:

- Knowledge of preparing risk assessments**.**

4. Responsibility

Essential:

- The ability to assist with best practice management of captive animal habitats.

Levels of Responsibility:

Type of Responsibility	Level (£'s)
Expenditure (exc. payroll)	£0
Cash Handling	£0
Assets (required for job, exc. buildings)	Up to £10k
Visitors (per annum)	n/a

Desirable*:*

- To use machinery to carry out essential grounds maintenance.

5. Creative Ability

Essential:

- To deliver talks and tours to visitors in an engaging and informative way.
- To maintain captive animal exhibits to the highest standards.

6. Contact

Essential:

- Regular contact with other departments / external bodies / visitors.

General Notes

This is a permanent position based at WWT Slimbridge.

Whilst this post is based at WWT Slimbridge, some travel may be necessary therefore a current driving licence is essential.