



Job Description

Living Collection Placement

Grade: 3

Directorate: Operations

Location: WWT Slimbridge

Reporting to: Living Collection Supervisor

Overview: We're WWT, the charity for wetlands and wildlife. We're on a mission to restore wetlands because they are a wondrous solution to the problems our world faces. Together we will unlock their power – and help nature burst back to life. Because when wetlands flourish all life will flourish.

At WWT our people are instrumental, and we want to inspire future conservationists to help lead the way. This learning and development placement is designed to provide experience and skills development in the following areas:

- Practical animal care experience, in a wetland setting
- Experience of the workplace
- Wetland conservation

You'll work within the Living Collections team, developing practical animal care experience and animal behaviour and welfare knowledge. The role will involve the day-to-day care of the animals in the collection, including rare and endangered species from around the world, such as grebes, sea ducks, waders, geese, swans and pelicans. You'll maintain and develop exhibits within the site to improve welfare standards for our animals and enhance the visitor experience, developing communication and presentation skills. As part of a BIAZA member zoological collection, this role offers a great opportunity for someone looking for experience in animal or conservation-based roles.

This role is a 12-month fixed term contract.

Supervisory responsibilities: None

Responsibilities of the post

To achieve the main function of the post as set out above, the post-holder will be:

1. Assisting with the detailed management of animals and areas, including feeding, training and behavioural management, general maintenance and development of enclosures
2. Ensuring that the welfare of the living collection is of the highest standard, in collaboration with the presentations team, veterinary team and animal management team.
3. Carrying out regular health and behaviour monitoring and maintaining exhibits, isolation and quarantine facilities and other types of enclosures
4. Maintaining exhibits to a high standard by carrying out enclosure maintenance, ensuring life support systems are running correctly, and vegetation and ground works are done when needed
5. Assisting with the detailed management of the specialist area, such as the avian breeding centre, theatre bird aviaries and ectotherm enclosures
6. Ensuring scrupulous hygiene standards are practised and maintained in all animal areas and the general site
7. Ensuring high levels of biosecurity are practised and always maintained in all areas, including visitor areas
8. Assisting with both written and Zoological Information Monitoring System (ZIMS), as defined by the Line Manager
9. Engaging with our veterinary team and assisting where guided
10. Engaging with the visitors, providing information, giving spot talks and guided tours as part of the core product and events programmes
11. Keeping record and welfare reporting
12. Assisting with pest management protocols and camera trap data

If you are required to carry out your own research project as part of your qualification, you will be supported to do so.

Working with Volunteers

1. To work alongside volunteers, encouraging, developing and supporting them in their work for WWT, ensuring that they have a positive volunteering experience.

Health and Safety:

2. To be responsible for working within the WWT health and safety policy and guidelines ensuring that the health, safety and wellbeing of yourself and others is an integral part of how you work.

Sustainability:

3. 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.

Visitors and Supporters:

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

Dealing with personal and financial data:

5. To ensure that in the course of your work you adhere to the WWT Data Protection policy and standards.

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.

Person Specification

1. Qualifications

Essential:

- A qualification (level 2 or higher) in a field applicable to the role or an equivalent level of experience

2. Experience and Skills

Desirable:

- Interested in practical animal care, with experience in carrying out husbandry tasks with a range of species
- Ability to work in a team of staff and volunteers, and demonstrate good people skills
- Proactive and able to carry out tasks with a minimum of supervision or independently under direction
- Ability to follow instructions and safely complete activities
- Public speaking skills
- Ability to work outdoors in all weathers
- Driving licence

3. Managerial & Supervisory

- This post will have no managerial or supervisory requirements.

4. Responsibility

Desirable:

- Excellent self-management skills with the ability to work independently, using own initiative and being flexible and adaptable.

General Notes

This role is full-time (10 days out of 14) and will include weekends and public holidays, as required.