



Job Description

Living Collections Assistant – Aviculture

Grade: 5

Directorate: Operations

Location: WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre

Reporting to: Living Collection Supervisor- Avian Breeding Centre or Avian Exhibits

Main function of post: To assist with the day-to-day husbandry of the animals on sections.

Supervisory responsibilities: Volunteers, Work Experience students

Main duties of the post

- To assist with the detailed management of animals within the aviculture sections.
- Monitor and provide a balanced and appropriate diet for animals, including food preparation, stock management and care of live food.
- Carry out behaviour management and training with animals where directed.
- Assist with breeding and population management of animals in line with the collection and breeding plans.
- 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 deliver engaging and educational talks, sufficiently presenting and interacting with animals in front of visitors to highlight our key wetland messages.
- To ensure that the health of the living collection is of the highest standard, in collaboration with the veterinary team, including health monitoring individuals and assisting with medications.

- To assist in the maintenance of both written and ZIMS records, census, and monitoring and recording behaviour and welfare.
- To ensure scrupulous hygiene standards and biosecurity are practised and maintained in all areas.
- 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.
- To assist with maintain high standards of welfares and enrichment in the Living Collection, including carrying out welfare observations and assessments.
- To assist and carry out research relating to the Living Collection.
- To assist with general duties in other sections of the wider living collections team where required.
- To work alongside volunteers encouraging, developing and supporting them in their work for WWT, ensuring that they have a positive volunteering experience.
- 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: November 2021

Person Specification

1. Qualifications

Essential:

- Foundation Degree in relevant subject or equivalent.

Desirable:

- Full current driving license.
- First aid at work.

2. Experience

Essential:

- Previous experience of avian husbandry
- Be computer literate in Microsoft office

Desirable:

- Previous experience of animal training and presentations
- Previous experience in incubation and hand rearing
- Previous experience in a zoo or visitor attractions
- Track record of working with avian breeding and care through all life stages
- Experience in customer relations and conservation education.
- Experience in use of ZIMS.

3. Managerial & Supervisory

Essential:

- Allocate basic tasks to volunteers and casual staff and supporting them in completing those tasks.

| Type of staff | Number managed | Number supervised |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Employed Staff | 0 | 0 |
| Volunteers / Casual Workers | 0 | Up to 4 |
| Contractors | 0 | 0 |

Desirable:

- Knowledge of preparing risk assessments

4. Responsibility

Essential:

- To assist with best practice management of captive animal habitats.
- To assist with the health and welfare of the animals in compliance with all WWT policies and procedures.
- To keep daily records and complete welfare checks adhering to secretary of state for modern zoo standards.
- Your safety and the safety of others.

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 |

5. Creative Ability

Essential:

- Ability to follow husbandry guidelines and related SOP's.
- Organise your own time depending on the requirements of the animals during that day.
- Ability to work in the absence of a supervisor and part of busy flexible team.
- To deliver spot talks and presentations as well as providing information to and engaging with visitors
- To maintain captive animal exhibits to ensure highest standard possible

6. Contact

Essential:

- Excellent customer service and ability to engage with a diverse range of visitors.
- Maintain an excellent working relationship with the rest of the living collection team.
- Support line manager.
- Regular contact with other departments / external bodies / visitors

General Notes

This is a permanent position based at WWT Slimbridge. Your actual times of work will vary according to the needs of the business and your working rota will be notified to you by your Line Manager in advance.

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