



Job Description

Living Collection Assistant – Animal Trainer/Presenter

Directorate: Operations

Location: WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre

Reporting to: Presentations Supervisor- Animal Demonstrations **Grade:** 5

Main function of post: To assist in the development and delivery of WWT Slimbridge's engaging animal presentations and demonstrations.

Supervisory responsibilities: Centre volunteers and placement students

Responsibilities of the post

- To assist with the detailed management of all animals and areas within the Living Wetland Theatre section; to include feeding, training and behavioural management, general maintenance of enclosures and public areas, and upkeep of ponds and filtration systems.
- 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.
- To assist in the training and husbandry needs of the demonstration birds by following existing training programs, working effectively with the team to create new training plans, and maintaining behaviour management records.
- To assist in the maintenance of records; daily counts, diet sheets, husbandry checks and behaviour records.
- To ensure high levels of biosecurity are practised and maintained at all times, in all areas including visitor areas.
- To present animal engagement opportunities across the centre including, but not limited to, our bird demonstrations and other animal keeper talks. Also to lead and be responsible for VIP visitor experiences behind the scenes ensuring all H&S is adhered to.

- 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 participate in continued professional development for the benefit of the organisation as well as your own personal growth.
- To assist with general duties in other sections of the presentations team (Mammals and Ectotherms) and wider living collections team where required.
- 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: January 2018

Amended: January 2026

Person Specification

1. Qualifications

Essential:

- Foundation Degree in relevant subject or equivalent.
- And / or relevant practical animal experience
- Full current driving license

Desirable:

- FdSc/BSc in zoology-related subject (preferably animal behavior based)

2. Experience

Essential:

- Practical experience in presentations or public speaking
- A working understanding of modern animal training techniques

Desirable:

- Previous experience in a large zoo or visitor attraction
- Experience in customer relations, education, working with children or creative work
- Experience in a similar role would be an advantage

3. Managerial & Supervisory

Essential:

- To allocate basic tasks to volunteers and to supervise the undertaking of such tasks.

Type of staff	Number managed	Number supervised
Employed Staff	0	0
Volunteers / Casual Workers	0	1 - 10
Contractors	0	0

4. Responsibility

Essential:

- Responsible for the provision and maintenance of section exhibits
- Responsible for the health and welfare of animals on the Living Wetland Theatre section, and other sections where relevant, in compliance with all relevant WWT policies and procedures
- Keep daily records and welfare checks adhering to our zoo license guidelines
- An ability to act independently but also as part of a team
- Communicate effectively to the team and the relevant managers

Levels of Responsibility:

Type of Responsibility	Level (£'s)
Expenditure (exc. payroll)	£0
Cash Handling	£0
Assets (required for job, exc. buildings)	£10,000
Visitors (per annum)	£0

5. Creative Ability

Essential:

- Ability to originate ideas and bring creativity to the role
- Following husbandry guidelines & care regimes including diet programs
- Required to be creative in delivering presentations to visitors and engaging all age groups
- Organise own work, resolving problems that arise and have a flexible approach to new challenges
- Establish and maintain husbandry training for designated animals
- An enthusiastic approach and a desire to pass on that enthusiasm

6. Contact

Essential:

- Ability to communicate effectively with a range of people
- Excellent working relationship with the Living Collections and wider WWT team/s
- Core visitor engagement with the general public on a daily basis
- Support other departments (e.g. education, marketing, facilities, administration & volunteers) with Centre promotion and engagement
- Specialist talks to a wide range of public, groups, schools and animal professionals

General Notes

This is a full-time position based at WWT Slimbridge, on a rota basis of 5 days within 7 to include weekends and bank/public holidays and occasional evenings. You're 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 as is willingness to occasionally travel to other WWT Wetland Centres.