

Living Collections Assistant – Animal Presentations

Directorate: Operations

Location: WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre

Reporting to: Living Collections Supervisor – Mammals

Grade: 5

Main function of post: To assist in the management and maintenance of WWT Slimbridge's mammal collection, and delivery of excellent visitor engagement

Supervisory responsibilities: Centre volunteers and placement students

Responsibilities of the post

1. To assist with the detailed management of all animals and areas within the mammal section; to include feeding, training and behavioural management, general maintenance of exhibits, enclosures and public areas, and upkeep any life support.
2. 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.
3. To assist in the breeding and rearing of mammals in line with agreed breeding plan.
4. To assist in the maintenance of records; daily counts, diet sheets, husbandry checks and behaviour records.
5. To ensure high levels of biosecurity are practised and maintained at all times, in all areas including visitor areas.
6. To present animal engagement opportunities across the centre including, but not limited to, our daily otter talks and other animal keeper talks. Also to assist in VIP visitor experiences behind the scenes ensuring all H&S is adhered to.

7. 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.
8. To participate in continued professional development for the benefit of the organisation as well as your own personal growth.
9. To assist with general duties in other sections of the presentations team (Living Wetland Theatre and Ectotherms) and wider living collections team where required.
10. 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.
11. 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: March 2024

Person Specification

1. Qualifications

Essential:

- FdSc/BSc in zoology-related subject or relevant practical animal experience
- Full current driving license

2. Experience

Essential:

- Practical experience in presentations or public speaking
- Practical animal experience

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
- Experience with animal training

3. Managerial & Supervisory

Essential:

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

Type of team member	Number managed (No. of direct reports)	Number supervised
Employed staff	0	0
Volunteers	0	1 - 10
Casual Workers	0	0

4. Responsibility

Essential:

- Responsible for the provision and maintenance of section exhibits

- Responsible for the health and welfare of mammals in the collection 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)
Budget Responsibility	£0
Income	£0
Project Size (normally managed)	n/a
Assets (required for job, exc. buildings)	£10,000
Visitors (number per annum)	

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.