



Role Description & Person Specification/Advertising Profile

Assistant Animal Keeper – Limited-Term 6 months

Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

Curraghs Wildlife Park

What will you do?

You will work as part of our dedicated team to maintain the highest standards of animal husbandry; feeding, cleaning, and enrichment for all the animals which are allocated under a keeper's charge. This will be with direction from and consultation with other more experienced keepers. The Assistant Animal Keeper will work closely with team colleagues and management, and will interact with visitors to convey information about the Park's animals and conservation in an engaging way.

What does that involve?

Working flexibly on a rota system which provides cover 365 days per year, the main duties and key accountabilities of the post will include:

- Being responsible for the daily preparation of animal feeds, cleaning enclosures and enrichment of animals. All husbandry should be to an acceptable standard as set out by the manager.
- Reporting any concerns about animals, enclosures or equipment to line manager or Duty Manager.
- Being responsible for the security of animals in their enclosures on any area and enclosures assigned to on that day
- Asking advice and taking on-board instructions on a daily basis. Reporting regularly to manager the health and welfare of animals and discussing this daily for feedback from others in the team
- Assisting where necessary with veterinary procedures, including administering medication under the direction of vets and or managers
- Talking and interacting with the public informally and more formally in presentations about animals and conservation issues
- Answering questions from visitors or volunteers professionally and in a friendly manner and working collaboratively with all staff and volunteers
- Keeping all work areas clean and tidy, including; yard, animal enclosures and surrounding areas, kitchen, freezer and cold store.
- Locking up enclosures and play areas on a late duty and checking all visitors have left and reporting to Duty Manager any issues.

- Taking personal responsibility for furthering knowledge of animals under their care
- Undertaking any training seen as appropriate by management.
- Assist in facilitating work placements and volunteer placements on the animal care team.
- On occasions, to work with volunteers ensuring they are safe
- Refurbishment and up-grading of enclosures to ensure they look presentable and providing enriching environments for the specific species
- Working independently in areas of the Park and ensuring you are reporting regularly to other keepers using a CB radio, if not in person.
- Any other duties, as requested by the any of the Wildlife Park management team

High standards of health and safety are key to all aspects of the role, including:

- Having an awareness of good hygiene practice
- Being physically fit to carry out a manual job
- Manual handling skills
- Safe use of knives and automated kitchen equipment
- Awareness of working in enclosed spaces with animals
- Animal restraint where appropriate
- Compliance with Health and Safety legislation and with Departmental Health and Safety policies
- Maintaining safe operational practises in the use, storage and disposal of stocks, chemicals and other potentially hazardous materials
- Undertaking duties with due regard to public safety ensuring all tasks carried out present no hazard to customers, other staff or self.

How to apply

You should review the 'What you Need' table and clearly state in your application how you satisfy each of the **essential 'E'** attributes and, ideally, how you satisfy the **desirable 'D'** attributes. This evidence could be in the form of a table.

What do you need to be successful in this role?

	Essential or Desirable	Method of Assessment
Credibility		
GCSEs at Grade C or above or equivalent in English Language and Mathematics.	D	CV
Minimum of 6 months' experience in the management of captive animals with the ability to further develop animal husbandry skills.	D	CV/Interview
Has open conversations with a pleasant out-going personality and practical nature.	E	CV/Interview
Addresses the issues. Ability to practically implement solutions to problems, particularly relating to animal enclosures	D	CV/Interview
Builds supportive relationships with a co-operative attitude to working within a team.	E	CV/Interview
Is professional and credible, with a genuine interest in animals and taking a personal pride in work.	E	CV/Interview
Knowledge in a specific field of zoology/conservation or specialised animal care.	D	CV/Interview
Experience of education roles or inspiring others.	D	CV/Interview
Capability		
Future focused. Makes considered decisions. Good problem solving skills.	E	CV/Interview
Encourages innovation and supports change.	E	CV/Interview
Character		
Able to deal with customers effectively and maintain service standards. Trusts and is trusted.	E	CV/Interview
Ability to communicate positively, professionally and in a friendly manner to visitor, volunteers and staff with positive energy and drive.	E	CV/Interview
		CV/Interview
Other requirements		
Physically able to undertake the manual elements of the role.	E	CV/Interview
Isle of Man Worker.	D	Application/Checks
Satisfactory Police check	E	Pre-employment check