



Keeper/Aquarist Level 3

Apprentices will be employed in zoos, wildlife parks, aquariums, private animal collections, animal reserves, and farms with a zoo licence. They will be responsible for the everyday care and husbandry of animals.

An apprentice will need to successfully demonstrate the following knowledge, skills and behaviours in order to pass the apprenticeship.



What they will learn

Knowledge

- Current legislation, work place policies & procedures, organisation structure and missions.
- The five welfare needs of animals.
- The principles of basic zoology including anatomy, ecology and classification of taxa.
- Conservation and ethics.
- The principles of animal movement and transportation legislation.
- Factors affecting bio security and control measures.
- Basic horticultural principles in relation to wild animal species.
- Organisational protocols for dealing with emergencies.
- The importance of zoo or aquarium research and the types of research undertaken in zoos/aquariums.



An Animal Keeper or Aquarist will have a strong work ethic and show respect and empathy for both people and animals.

They will also be required to encourage public engagement with wildlife, conservation breeding and conservation education. They will research, gather and present information for educational presentations and to promote understanding with different audiences.



What they will learn

Skills

- Work effectively in a safe and healthy working environment.
- Demonstrate how the five welfare needs of an animal can be used as a basis to provide the animal with opportunities to display positive welfare.
- Communicate information clearly and within a timely manner with internal and external audiences and in ways that promote understanding.
- Actively listen, process and prioritise information, confirm understanding and react according to level of risk
- Observe, describe and interpret animal behaviour.
- Administer treatment following instruction from a veterinarian/competent staff member.
- Evaluate diets and propose modifications.





In their daily work, an employee interacts with volunteers, animal keepers who are less experienced and more experienced, management, veterinary staff, staff from other departments, colleagues from other zoological collections and members of the public.

They will record and report any observed changes and concerns to senior animal keeping staff/management and learn the use of recording systems.



What they will learn

Behaviours

The apprentice will:

- Maintain respect and empathy for animals.
- Have a strong work ethic and a willingness to learn. Be respectful, punctual, reliable, trustworthy and diligent and prepared to work irregular hours, in all weathers.
- Have an awareness of the limits of their own authority, expertise, training, competence and experience.
- Be aware of how to use social media responsibly.
- Have a positive approach to working within a team and have the ability to work both individually and as part of a team as required.
- Be customer focused, polite and friendly.
- Be flexible with respect to changing demands, priorities, schedules, working hours, weather conditions.

