

Animal Keeper: Carnivore Team

Inc. carnivores, small mammals and birds of prey



Salary £28,124

Job Profile

Northumberland Zoo is a major animal attraction and wildlife conservation centre, in the northeast of England. With the addition of numerous brand-new exhibits in the past few years, our future is looking bright, including several new species over the coming months and years as part of our master plan. We are a family-run, not-for-profit zoo and we are looking for a like-minded team player to join our team; you must be willing to adopt our Zoo ethos and join our mission in conservation, education & sustainability to inspire positive change.

We have an exciting opportunity for an Animal Keeper to join our Carnivore Team. This will include a range of large and small carnivores, small mammals and birds of prey that fly in our display. This role will have the opportunity to work across the sections on our Carnivore Team, dependent on experience. You will work alongside the animal team to ensure the highest possible standards of animal husbandry, including behavioural and environmental enrichment and animal training programmes. You will be responsible for the development of animal exhibits to promote natural behaviour and top-quality presentation, also, educational opportunities for zoo visitors in line with the zoo's missions.

Main Duties & Job Responsibilities

- Day-to-day husbandry routines for various species including health and welfare monitoring
- Researching and implementing behavioural and environmental enrichment opportunities for various species
- Refurbishing and maintaining exhibits with species specific suitability in mind to promote natural behaviour
- Strict adherence to risk assessments, bio security and safe working practices.
- Taking ownership for the presentation of the wider zoo site by maintaining high standards of presentation with a positive attitude and professional manner
- Carrying out animal experiences, talks, displays and occasionally assisting the education department in planning and carrying out education sessions to school groups and visitors ensuring the zoos mission messages are being delivered.

Skills and Experience

- At least 2 years professional zoo work experience working with animals, including carnivores, in a zoo environment. Experience with birds of prey would be desirable.
- Be qualified in an appropriate captive wild animal husbandry, biological or conservation discipline
- Must have high animal welfare standards with regards to the care and daily husbandry routines
- Experience implementing animal enrichment programmes with behavioural output in mind
- Have great observational skills when working with the animals in the park, understanding animal behaviour and the ability to keep accurate records relating to animal welfare
- Be confident in presenting engaging, educational messages to audiences

General

- Full driver's license and access to vehicle required due to rural setting of zoo
- Have great team working and communication skills and adaptability to suit the needs of the role
- Be able to work effectively and with minimum supervision within a timely manner
- Have strong interpersonal skills and be confident to interact with the public
- Be physically fit and able to work outdoors in all weathers
- Take responsibility for own personal development, seeking out opportunities to learn new skills

- 40 hrs per week across 5 days, includes weekends and bank holidays
- 28 days holiday increasing by 1 day each year to max 33 with service
- 1 additional day off for your birthday after a successful probation
- Company sick pay package after a successful probation
- Enrolment in pension scheme with employer contributions of 3%
- £5 daily food allowance in the zoo café and discount in zoo shop
- Complimentary Zoo admission tickets for family and friends

To apply, please send your CV and covering letter to Hannah Webb, Animal Manager by

Thursday 30th April 2026

h.webb@northumberlandzoo.co.uk