



## Trainee Animal Keeper – Casual Hours

Hertfordshire Zoo is currently seeking two Trainee Cover Keepers to support our Keeper team on a casual basis. This role offers the opportunity to work with a broad range of species across multiple animal sections and is well suited to individuals looking to gain further experience within a zoological environment. We are looking for candidates who are reliable, willing to learn, adaptable, and committed to maintaining high standards of animal care and visitor engagement.

As a Trainee Cover Keeper, you will assist with a wide variety of animal care tasks across the zoo's five main sections: **Paddocks & Farm, Primates & Small Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, and Large Carnivores.**

### Main Responsibilities and Duties:

- Daily animal husbandry (feeding, cleaning, enrichment provision)
- Enclosure maintenance and checks
- Supporting and delivering visitor experiences, including Keeper Talks and Animal Experiences
- Recording observations and maintaining accurate animal records
- Supervising and working alongside volunteers and work experience students
- Supporting general site maintenance and visitor services when required

### Job Details:

- Casual hours available throughout the year, generally 3-4 days per week
- Hours: Summer 08.00-17.00, Winter 08.00-16.30
- Applicants must be available and happy to work weekends, bank holidays and school holidays (flexibility in working days and hours is essential)
- 28 days PA paid annual leave (accrued pro-rata on hours worked)
- Employee Assistant Programme, Company Pension and a whole host of staff benefits and discounts
- Pay: National Minimum Wage (currently £7.55–£12.21 per hour, based on age)

### Requirements:

- An Animal Management-related qualification
- Prior **Zoo or relevant animal** experience (voluntary or paid)
- Excellent communication skills (both 1-1 and public speaking) and a great team player
- Adaptable for a flexible rota
- Physically fit for the demands of this role and happy working outside in all weathers
- **Full UK driving licence and access to own vehicle** (as HZ is not accessible by public transport)
- In line with the requirements of the Asylum & Immigration Act 1996, all applicants must have **existing rights to reside and work in the UK.**

If you would like the opportunity to join our team, please email your CV and cover letter stating what makes you a suitable candidate to [jessie.boylan@hertfordshirezoo.com](mailto:jessie.boylan@hertfordshirezoo.com) using "Trainee Keeper" as the subject. **Closing Date: Sunday 11th May 2025.**