

We are looking for an experienced zookeeper to join our fantastic animal care team, as we develop our collection.

This is an exciting opportunity to work across a wide range of species, including small mammals, birds, reptiles, invertebrates, hoof stock, wolves, tapir, gelada and cats (lion, tiger, jaguar, leopard, cheetah, lynx, and wildcat).



Background

Dartmoor Zoo is set in 33 acres of beautiful wooded countryside on the edge of Dartmoor, in a small village called Sparkwell, just 20 minutes from the city of Plymouth. Plymouth itself has excellent travel links to the rest of the country and is known as Britain's Ocean City.

Dartmoor Zoo is on a journey! We are currently redesigning the zoo by developing a comprehensive new Master Plan and Collection Plan to completely overhaul our collection, exhibits and visitor facilities. This will be a long journey with work being completed in several stages over the next decade. This is an exciting time to join the team!

The Charity, Dartmoor Zoological Society, operates Dartmoor Zoo. Our vision is to protect threatened species and enable people to help wildlife thrive. We aim to promote the conservation, care and breeding of wildlife and endangered species, encouraging and developing public interest in and awareness of the importance of ensuring the survival of species and the diversity of life.

Benefits



- Salary dependent on experience
- Permanent contract
- Average 37.5 hours per week (rota basis)
- 30 days annual leave (including bank holidays)
- Enhanced sick absence, maternity, paternity and adoption leave
- Discounts in restaurant and shop
- Free zoo entrance for immediate family
- Free parking
- Assistance in finding accommodation if you need to relocate.

Job holder expectations

- Assist or lead in the daily management and care of all animals on a section, including all aspects of animal husbandry, cleaning, food preparation, and feeding, enclosure maintenance, enrichment, observations, medical treatment, and positive reinforcement training.
- Maintain organised written records pertaining to health, feeding, water quality and behavioural observations.
- Have a positive attitude, and lead by example to other team members and volunteers, providing guidance and supervision where required.
- Engage enthusiastically with the public, and give animal experiences and talks when needed.
- Strict adherence to safe working practices.
- Maintain and develop your own knowledge, and undertake training where required.



Applicants must have:

- a bachelor's degree in biology or a related field, with specific knowledge of animal husbandry and behavioural conditioning, or equivalent work experience.
- extensive paid experience of caring for exotic animals in a zoo setting.
- experience with or an understanding of all species within our collection.
- ideally experience of working with big cats or other cat 1 animals.
- demonstrable discipline and have a history of a consistently high degree of work quality.
- an ability to work as part of a team and on their own.
- demonstrable initiative and a pro-active approach to completing tasks beneficial to the whole team.
- good written and oral communication skills.
- knowledge and experience of word processing and spreadsheet software.
- a basic knowledge of ZIMS
- good health and be capable of performing strenuous and/or heavy physical labour, and be able to work in all weather conditions.
- the ability to work on weekends, during school holidays and on bank holidays, on a rota basis.
- a full driving licence.
- eligibility to work in the UK.

To Apply

Applications: via application form only (visit www.dartmoorzoo.org.uk/job-vacancies)

Submit to: clare.lee@dartmoorzoo.co.uk

