Assistant Animal Keeper – Birds/Herpetology Team

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an Assistant Animal Keeper to our Birds & Herps team on a permanent basis, working 40 hours per week over 5 days.

Responsibilities will include ensuring high standards of animal welfare, health and animal husbandry at all times and keeping daily checks and records.

The successful candidate will be able to work well as part of a team, have the ability to use their initiative and possess strong communication skills, as talking to members of the public is an essential part of the role. An interest and previous experience with birds, reptile, amphibian, fish and invertebrate species would also be an advantage.

Applicants must hold 5 GCSE's or equivalent and have a demonstrable interest & enthusiasm for animal conservation, management & welfare.

This post offers a fantastic opportunity to work with a wide range of Bird, Amphibian and Reptile species and contribute to captive breeding programmes.

Please see the job description below for full details.

Salary £26,436.80 per annum.

If you would like to join our unique and vibrant organisation to become a part of the Marwell Family, please view the full candidate brief below and send a completed application form to jobs@marwell.org.uk.

Closing Date: 05 November 2026

1st stage interview date: Tuesday 10 November 2026

2nd stage interview date: Tuesday 17 November 2026

Disclaimer: we reserve the right to close a vacancy earlier than the advertised date if we receive applications that meet the selection criteria. Once a vacancy has closed, we are unable to consider further applications, so please apply early to avoid disappointment.

Assistant Animal Keeper

Role Profile

Job Title: Assistant Animal Keeper
Benefits: Pension at 5%, 33 days annual leave inc Bank Holidays
Hours: 40 hours per week, including weekend and bank holiday rotas as required
Location: Marwell Wildlife
Reports to: Animal Team Leader
Management: None

Role Purpose and Role Dimensions: Develop wide ranging animal management knowledge, skills & experience. Contribute to the husbandry, welfare & increased knowledge of animals in our care. Contribute to education, media and marketing initiatives to encourage public understanding of animals and promote Marwell's charitable mission.

Financial Dimensions: None

Key Internal Contacts

- Animal Team Leaders
- Senior Animal Keepers
- Animal Team Manager
- Animal Collection Manager
- Veterinary team
- Education team

The Role

Planning

- Prepare for & attend regular section or departmental meetings / undertake agreed actions

Animal Management

- Carry out animal husbandry routines and environmental enrichment as instructed
- Undertake & record animal observations
- Participate in animal management operations and veterinary intervention as required

Human Resources

- Attend formal & informal training as required

Health & safety

- Adhere to health and safety policy & procedures
- Learn & maintain understanding of emergency procedures - practice and enact as required

Communications, education & public awareness

- Participate in education, media and marketing initiatives as required
- Engage guests informally during course of duties

Compliance & best practise

- Participate in Zoo Licence inspections, and other audits as required
- Learn & maintain understanding of Ethical, Population Management, and Animal Welfare policies
- Adhere to environmental policy & procedures
- Identify with and contribute to Marwell Wildlife Brand Values, mission and charitable objectives

The Candidate

Qualifications & Experience

Essential

- Minimum of 5 Level 2 (GCSE grade A-C) or equivalent science qualifications. Higher qualifications desirable.
- Demonstrable interest & enthusiasm for animal conservation, management & welfare
- Developing understanding of relevant legislation
- Full driving licence valid for the U.K.

Desirable

- An animal related qualification
- Practical, relevant animal experience

Attributes

- Aptitude for academic & practical learning
- Ability to undertake both academic & practical tasks
- Strong communication skills
- IT skills and proficiency in use of software (word processing, spreadsheets, presentations)
- Ability to work in a team
- Punctuality
- An understanding of the values and behaviour expected within this role
- An understanding of how this role supports the delivery of our charitable outputs