



Zoo Keeper for a Day!

Discover **exactly** what it's like to look after wild animals with our *Zoo Keeper for a Day* experience! You'll learn how to ensure that our animals remain well fed, interested and cared for during your day with us. You'll also come a lot closer to our animals than our usual visitors in the company of our experienced zoo keepers. Wildwood is a centre for British wildlife, set in ancient woodland, so be prepared too for an outdoor working day in the woods.

There is no such thing as a typical zoo keeper's day, but you are likely to do some of the following under the supervision of an experienced keeper:

- Tour of kitchens and off public areas
- Food preparation for herbivores (including chopping fruit and vegetables and/or browse collection)
- Food preparation for carnivores (preparing dead chicks, chickens, fish, mice, rats, rabbits or larger animals for feeding out or live food for insectivores – mealworms, crickets and worms)
- Cleaning out/poo picking enclosures and night quarters
- Enclosure refurbishment
- Animal enrichment

But working with animals is rarely typical, so be prepared for anything that may happen on the day!

And don't forget to bring your camera – there will be lots of photographic opportunities.

Bookings for the *Zoo Keeper for a Day* experience are available once a month, Tuesday-Thursday most weeks. This experience is very popular so please contact us (ring 01227 712111 or email anne@wildwoodtrust.org) to check availability before completing the booking form.

Applicants must be over 18 years (if younger, please see *So You Want to be a Zoo Keeper* bookings), reasonably fit and able to cope with typical keeper tasks such as bending and lifting hay bales and water carriers, using a hand saw/knife safely, wheeling a heavy wheelbarrow, walking all day and so on. See *Conditions* (below) for other requirements.

How to book:

- Please use the *Zoo Keeper for a Day* booking form below
- This includes a signed declaration that you will abide by Wildwood's health and safety regulations and follow the keeper team's instructions
- Bookings are only accepted once the completed booking form **with payment** has been received

Cost:

- £195, paid in advance

What you get:

- The opportunity to be part of the experienced animal keeper team at Britain's 'best British wildlife park' (BBC) for a day
- *Zoo Keeper for a Day* T-shirt
- Mounted colour photograph of your favourite species
- Colour photograph taken by a Wildwood photographer of you during your *Zoo Keeper for a Day* experience
- Presentation certificate
- Lunch (1-130pm) and refreshments during keeper break (1030-11am); if you prefer, you may bring your own refreshments
- Your day starts at 9am (please report to the Wildwood office outside the main park gates) and ends at 4pm

Cancellations:

- Full refund if you cancel up to a month in advance
- We regret no refund is possible if you cancel with less than a month's notice

Conditions:

- You must be at least 18 years old
- Have a current tetanus vaccination (within the last 10 years)
- Be reasonably fit
- If you have special needs, you may be accompanied by a carer free of charge, if required
- Family members and friends may not accompany you
- No smoking is allowed in public areas at all; Wildwood's smoking policy restricts smoking to the keepers' staff area during permitted break times only
- Wear appropriate old clothes for a day working in the woods – e.g. old jeans, jumper or sweatshirt, waterproof coat or jacket
- Wear appropriate strong footwear – old trainers or boots
- Come prepared for the weather: bring sun block and a hat if very hot or warm clothes if cold; we work outdoors through all weathers, including driving rain, sleet and hail.

Health and Safety regulations

All animals naturally carry a range of micro-organisms which can be passed to humans and cause sickness, as well as the more obvious risks of bites, scratches, crushing and other injuries. Working in enclosures and the woodland also carries risks of injury and disease and there may be other park operations which present a hazard.

Anyone working at Wildwood may also come into contact with hay, straw, sawdust, nuts, fungi, pollen, animals of all kinds (e.g. we have adders, which are venomous snakes), other materials and tools during their activities. If you have any medical/behavioural conditions, disabilities and/or medication that we should be aware of which might be affected by these (e.g. hay fever, allergies, anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.), please tell us.

In addition, remember that our animals are wild and do not know you, so will not respond like family pets – we expect you to treat them with respect and give them space. Therefore it is essential that those participating in the *Zoo Keeper for a Day* experience follow closely the instructions they are given for the health and safety of themselves and others.

Before the day:

- Check your tetanus vaccination is up to date
- Tell us of any medical conditions, disabilities, allergies or conditions we should be aware of
- Cover existing cuts and bruises on exposed skin with waterproof dressings
- Make sure you have appropriate clothes and footwear

On the day:

1. Dress Sensibly

- Tie back long hair
- No jewellery other than ear studs
- No nail polish; remember, long nails are likely to break
- No perfume or aftershave
- No high-heeled shoes, ballet pumps or other inappropriate footwear
- No long dangly scarves, toggles or anything which might tempt an animal to pull or might get caught up on branches/enclosures
- If you are inappropriately dressed on arrival, this is a health and safety matter and could affect the continuation of your day. In extreme cases, your day may need to be rescheduled or even cancelled if you cannot resolve the issue.

2. Follow Instructions

- Wash your hands at every opportunity, most especially on arrival and departure from Wildwood, between preparing different foods and before eating, drinking and smoking
- Do not put your fingers in your mouth unless you have washed them first
- Use the disposable gloves provided when instructed, especially when preparing whole animal carcasses for carnivores

- No smoking is allowed in public areas at all; smoking, eating and drinking are confined to the keepers' designated staff area during permitted break times only
- Do not eat any of the food intended for animals
- Stay in close contact with your zoo keeper; do not wander off
- If you take your breaks or lunch apart from your zoo keeper, please arrange to meet them at a set time and public location. You may not enter the staff-only areas of the park unaccompanied.
- Do not enter an animal enclosure without the specific instruction of your zoo keeper
- Any accident or injury must be reported to your zoo keeper immediately so that appropriate action and first aid can be undertaken
- In an emergency, follow your zoo keeper's instructions. If you become separated, leave the park by the nearest emergency exit and make your way to the assembly point in the car park

3. Respect Animals

- Please understand there will be no animal contact during your day
- Do not approach animals unless you are told it is acceptable by your zoo keeper
- Do not attempt to touch, stroke or hug animals
- Do not put your face close to animals or try to kiss them

4. Inappropriate Behaviour

- If you are unable to agree to follow these conditions or behave inappropriately during your *Zoo Keeper for a Day* experience, unfortunately your day will be terminated immediately
- In such circumstances, there will be no refund.



Zoo Keeper for a Day Booking Form



Information about you *(this remains strictly confidential)*

Applicant's Name:

Age (must be over 18 years):

If 18, date of birth:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone nos: Daytime:
Mobile:

Email:

Date of your last tetanus vaccination:

Are you physically fit? Yes/No *(please circle)*

Do you have any medical/behavioural conditions or disabilities we should be aware of?
Yes/No *(please circle)*

If yes, please give details in the space below:

Do you require a special needs carer to accompany you? Yes/No *(please circle)*

If yes, please give their name and contact details below:
Carer's Name:
Carer's daytime telephone no:

Are you taking medication? Yes/No *(please circle)*

If yes, please give details below:

Are you allergic to anything? Yes/No *(please circle)*

If yes, please give details below:

Your *Zoo Keeper for a Day* T shirt size: XS S M L XL XXL

Your favourite species for your mounted photograph:

Do you have any specific interests that we might be able to help with?

EMERGENCIES: in an emergency, whom should we contact?

Name:

Daytime telephone no:

Mobile no:

Payment Details: *please note we no longer accept personal cheques*

Payment of £195 for Zoo Keeper for a Day experience:

Please debit my	Visa <input type="checkbox"/>	Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/>	Solo/Maestro <input type="checkbox"/>
Card No:	Issue No:		<input type="checkbox"/>
3 digit security code:	Start Date:	Expiry date:	
Account holder's name (as it appears on card):			

Are you paying for this for yourself?	Yes/No (<i>please circle</i>)
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If No and this is a gift, please complete the following information:

Fee Payer's Name:
Fee Payer's Address:
Postcode:
Fee Payer's Telephone Nos: Daytime:
Mobile:
Fee Payer's Email:
Fee Payer's Signature:

APPLICANT'S DECLARATION

*This **MUST** be signed by the person who will be the Zoo Keeper for a day.*

I have read carefully the conditions and health and safety regulations covering the Wildwood Zoo Keeper for Day experience and I agree to be bound by them (*please tick the boxes below to show you have understood these requirements in detail*).

- I agree to inform Wildwood of any relevant medical conditions in advance
- I agree to dress sensibly for the day
- I agree to follow all instructions from the zoo keeper team
- I agree to respect the animals
- I understand that failure to do any of these could lead to the immediate termination of my day without a refund.

Applicant's Signature:
Date:

Please tick this box if you don't wish to receive information about Wildwood Trust