

# Job title: Zookeeper



<b>Job title: Zookeeper</b>	<p>Zookeepers look after animals in zoos, safari parks and aquariums.</p>
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	<p>You can do a foundation degree, higher national diploma or degree in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• animal or zoo management</li> <li>• animal behaviour and welfare</li> <li>• zoology or marine zoology</li> <li>• animal conservation and biodiversity</li> <li>• veterinary science</li> <li>• biology</li> </ul> <p>Zoos vary in what qualifications they ask for and it can depend on what their zookeepers are going to do.</p> <p><b>Entry requirements</b> You'll usually need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 or 2 A levels for a foundation degree or higher national diploma</li> <li>• 2 or 3 A levels, including a science, for a degree</li> </ul> <p>You could do a course before applying to a zoo for a trainee zookeeper's job. Relevant courses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level 3 Extended Diploma in Animal Management</li> <li>• Level 3 Diploma in Animal Care or Animal Science</li> <li>• Biology A level</li> </ul> <p><b>Entry requirements</b> You'll usually need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), including English, maths and science</li> </ul> <p>You could start by doing an intermediate or advanced apprenticeship in animal care, or an animal care and welfare assistant intermediate apprenticeship. This may help you to get a job as a trainee with a zoo. Your employer would then put you through more courses on the job.</p>
<b>Skills required:</b>	<p>You'll need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the ability to work well with others</li> <li>• to be thorough and pay attention to detail</li> <li>• excellent verbal communication skills</li> <li>• the ability to use your initiative</li> <li>• the ability to work well with your hands</li> <li>• to be flexible and open to change</li> <li>• patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations</li> <li>• customer service skills</li> <li>• to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device</li> </ul> <p>You'll need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pass enhanced background checks, as you may be working with children and vulnerable adults</li> </ul>
<b>What you'll do:</b>	<p>In this role you could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• preparing food and feeding animals</li> <li>• cleaning out pens and cages and changing bedding</li> <li>• making sure animals live in as close to natural conditions as possible</li> <li>• checking for signs of distress or disease and caring for sick animals</li> <li>• checking enclosures and cages for signs of wear or damage</li> <li>• monitoring conditions like temperature and humidity</li> <li>• keeping daily healthcare records on paper and computer</li> <li>• giving educational talks to children and adults</li> </ul>
<b>What you'll earn:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Starter: £12, 000</li> <li>• Experienced: £25, 000</li> </ul> <p><i>These figures are a guide.</i></p>
<b>Working hours, patterns and environment:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You could work at a zoo.</li> <li>• Your working environment may be outdoors in all weathers and physically demanding.</li> <li>• You may need to wear a uniform and protective clothing.</li> <li>• 37 to 40 hours, evenings, weekends and bank holidays</li> </ul>
<b>Career path and progression:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In larger zoos, you could progress from keeper to team leader or head keeper. With experience and a degree, you could become a curator.</li> <li>• You could also move into education or conservation research.</li> </ul>