

# Job of the Week

#24

## ZOOKEEPER

Zookeepers work in zoos and usually specialise in working with one animal type or section of the zoo. They are responsible for keeping the animals in their care healthy and to enable them to thrive in captivity. Being able to engage with the public and educate visitors to the zoo is usually a major part of this role. Observing animals, monitoring and recording their activities and assisting with breeding programmes could all be part of the role.

### Skills

- Confidence handling animals
- Scientific observation skills
- Good physical fitness & Health
- Great Communication Skills
- Confidence to talk to large groups
- Driving Licence
- IT Skills
- Good Numeracy skills

### Key Info

#### Salary



Starting: £12,000—£14,000  
Experienced: £16,000—£20,000  
Head Zookeepers £25,000+



#### Qualifications

Degree not essential but it would be an advantage (life science or animal-related subjects)



#### Routes

Traineeships & Apprenticeships  
Graduate Entry  
Animal work experience essential



#### Labour Market

Animal Care & Control Services:  
UK: 730,177 Gateshead: 1,923  
UK Growth: +18.5% (2027-27)  
NE Growth: +14.6% (2017-27)



#### Working Hours

40hrs per week including week-ends, holidays & on-call. Physically demanding work in all weathers



#### Related Careers

Zoologist, Veterinary Nurse, Animal Care Assistant

