

Job Description

Job Title: Tutor & Head of Animal Care

Location: Wildgoose Rural Training, Worcestershire

Hours: Full-time – Monday to Friday – 8hrs per day (occasional additional hrs for open events)

Salary: £30,550

Reports to: General Manager, SMT and CEO

Background

Wildgoose Rural Training is a care farm providing meaningful day opportunities for adults with learning disabilities and young people who benefit from alternative educational environments. Set within a beautiful 36-acre nature reserve, Wildgoose offers a diverse range of land-based, animal-based, and creative learning experiences that help students grow in confidence, independence, and wellbeing.

We are seeking an experienced, skilled, and passionate **Tutor & Animal Manager** to lead our animal care department. This is a management-level post combining high-quality teaching with professional animal husbandry. The successful candidate will oversee the daily care of our animals — including sheep, goats, pigs, reptiles, small mammals, invertebrates, and other diverse species — while delivering engaging, accessible learning sessions for adults with learning disabilities.

This role requires strong leadership, excellent communication skills, and a commitment to maintaining the highest standards of welfare, safety, and educational practice.

Main Purpose of the Role

To manage the animal care department and deliver high-quality teaching sessions focused on animal care, welfare, and land-based learning. The post holder will ensure that Wildgoose's animals receive exceptional care, that the animal areas remain safe and well-managed, and that students have enriching, supportive, and meaningful learning experiences.

Key Responsibilities

Animal Care & Management

- Oversee the daily care, welfare, and enrichment of all animals on site, including livestock (sheep, goats, pigs) and smaller/exotic species (reptiles, small mammals, birds, etc.).
- Work closely with the Animal Supervisor to maintain high standards of husbandry, cleanliness, safety, and welfare.
- Support all aspects of the animal care areas, ensuring enclosures, equipment, and facilities are maintained to a professional standard.
- Take a lead role in developing the animal care areas, including decisions on species, enclosure design, welfare improvements, and future development.
- Maintain accurate records, care profiles, feeding plans, signage, and documentation relating to animal welfare and management.
- Arrange and oversee weekend feeding rotas, ensuring adequate staffing and continuity of care.

- Deliver animal talks, demonstrations, and engagement activities at special events and open days.
- Ensure compliance with relevant legislation, welfare codes, and organisational policies.

Teaching & Student Support

- Plan and deliver high-quality, accessible teaching sessions for adults with learning disabilities, focusing on animal care, welfare, and land-based skills.
- Support students to develop confidence, independence, and practical skills while ensuring their safety and wellbeing.
- Create a positive, inclusive, and supportive learning environment that reflects Wildgoose's values.
- Work collaboratively with colleagues to ensure students have the best possible experience when working with animals.

Leadership & Communication

- Supervise and support staff, volunteers, and students to complete tasks properly, safely, and appropriately.
- Provide clear leadership within the animal care department, modelling best practice and professional standards.
- Work with the Animal Supervisor to ensure the animal areas remain safe, healthy, and well-managed for everyone involved.
- Keep the Senior Management Team (SMT) informed and updated on animal welfare, departmental needs, incidents, and development opportunities.
- Contribute to wider organisational planning, development, and teamwork.

Person Specification

Essential Skills & Experience

- Strong background in animal care, husbandry, welfare, or land-based work.
- Experience working with a range of species, including livestock and exotic/small animals.
- Experience teaching, training, or supporting adults with learning disabilities or similar groups.
- Ability to lead, motivate, and supervise staff and students.
- Excellent communication skills and a warm, supportive manner.
- Strong organisational skills with the ability to manage rotas, records, and departmental planning.
- Commitment to maintaining high standards of welfare, safety, and professionalism.
- A practical understanding of paddock management/improvement.
- The ability to carry out simple maintenance tasks using hand tools and equipment.
- Ability to work flexibly, including some weekend duties.

Desirable Qualifications

- Animal management or animal care qualification (e.g., Level 3 or above).
- Teaching or training qualification (e.g., PTLLS/Level 3 Award in Education & Training).
- Experience working in a care farm, educational, or land-based environment.
- First aid qualification.
- Full driving licence.

Work-Related Circumstances

- Must be willing to work outdoors in all weather conditions.
- Must be comfortable working with a wide range of animals, including reptiles.
- Willingness to undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.
- Flexibility to support occasional events, open days, and weekend duties.

Criminal Records – Disclosure and Barring Service check

WGRT is unable to appoint anyone who is barred from working with children or vulnerable adults to a Regulated position.

The offer of an appointment with the WGRT will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure under the Protection of Children Act 1999 and the Police Act 1997.

This means that when applying for a post, candidates will need to detail all convictions they may have – both ‘spent’ and ‘unspent’. The successful candidate will be advised of the Disclosure process in the letter offering them the appointment.

Application Process

Candidates should apply in the first instance by sending:

- **A CV**, and
- **A covering letter** explaining why they are the right person for the role

Applications should be sent to: **jim@wgrt.org**