

Animal Care Volunteer

Working with: The Squirrel Project Lead, and other volunteers

Do you love animals and birds and enjoy caring for them? We may have the perfect volunteering role for you!

At the Yorkshire Arboretum we have a small breeding group of native Red Squirrels who live in a purpose-built enclosure. We also have a couple of goats, some peafowl, Mandarin ducks and other birds. They need care seven days a week, for 52 weeks a year.

Join the team that provides this care, and have unique opportunities to interact with these delightful animals.

What would I do?

- We need volunteers to help look after our Red Squirrels, British Guernsey Goats, peafowl, Mandarin ducks and other birds.
- You would be part of a team working to a rota to prepare the squirrel enclosure for opening every day.

This involves:

- Topping up the feeding and water stations for the squirrels, goats and birds
- Inspecting the enclosure to check that everything is secure and in working order, including the door function
- Sweeping the boardwalk and cleaning the handrails and signs as needed

What skills and experience do I need?

- A basic knowledge of animal husbandry would be very helpful, perhaps gained through looking after your own outdoor animals
- We need you to be reliable and conscientious and be happy to follow instructions and work alongside others
- This role would be suitable for students looking for work experience
- Young people aged 14-18 are eligible if they are accompanied by a parent/guardian at all times

KEW AND CASTLE HOWARD

Where would I work?

- You will be working in the Squirrel enclosure which is about a ten minute walk from the arboretum carpark
- The enclosure has areas of uneven ground and may be muddy so you will need to be reasonably fit and mobile
- The animals and birds need feeding whatever the weather so you will need the right footwear and clothing to work in rain and snow!

How much time would I need to give?

- The animals need care seven days a week, for 52 weeks a year.
- You will be part of a team, and a rota will be drawn up so you will know well in advance when you will be working
- Preparing the enclosure will take up to two hours each day.
- Hours are normally 9am to 11am
- A commitment to one two-hour shift each week would be useful. More would be very welcome! We can discuss working less regularly

What training would I be given?

- You will be given a detailed induction into what is required when you start the role
- It may be possible to work alongside a more experienced volunteer for a couple of sessions
- There will be opportunities to learn more about the animals and birds in your care

I'm interested! How do I apply?

Please contact volunteer@yorkshirearboretum.org telling us a little about yourself, why you are interested in this role and any relevant skills and experience you have.

