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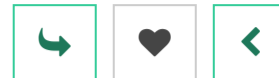
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# Zookeeper

Also called: Keeper, animal keeper, zoo keeper

Zookeepers work in zoos, safari parks, or aquariums to feed, clean out, and look after animals.



## What you'll do

You could work in small or large zoos and safari parks owned privately or by charities. You could work with mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and fish.

You could also work in sea zoos and aquariums.

Your day-to-day tasks may include:

- preparing food and feeding animals
- cleaning out pens and cages and changing bedding
- making sure animals live in as close to natural conditions as possible
- checking for signs of distress or disease and caring for sick animals
- checking enclosures and cages for signs of wear or damage
- monitoring conditions like temperature and humidity
- keeping daily healthcare records on paper and computer
- giving educational talks to children and adults

You'll usually work with one type of animal or in a particular section of the zoo.

Record relevant activities you've already done on the [Activities tool](#) >

## Working hours and environment

You'll usually work shifts including weekends and bank holidays. Outside your working hours, you may be on a rota for call-outs in case another staff member is not available or there's an emergency.

You'll spend a lot of time outside in all weathers. This work is physically demanding, and could involve working in uncomfortable positions, like crouching down to feed animals or clean out cages.

You'll be around other people a lot of the time, from your colleagues to members of the public visiting the zoo.

## Career path and progression

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In larger zoos, you could progress from keeper to team leader or head keeper. With experience and a degree, you could become a curator.

You could also move into education or conservation research.

## Skills required

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You'll need:

- the practical skills to handle animals with confidence
- a caring nature, to treat animals with compassion
- good observation skills, to notice any signs of distress or disease in animals
- good teamwork skills, as you'll often work with other people
- strong communication skills, as you'll likely be writing notes, sharing information with your team, or giving presentations to the public

Got evidence of these skills? Record your examples on the [Skills tool](#) >

## Entry requirements

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To become a zookeeper, you'll usually need:

- a high school diploma (US) or Level 3 qualifications like A levels (UK) or an equivalent qualification in a related subject like animal care or animal science
- experience of working with animals. You could volunteer or apply for a work placement in a zoo, farm, safari park, kennels, or riding stables
- to pass a criminal records background check

As this is a popular role, some zoos ask that you have a higher national diploma, foundation degree, or degree in a relevant subject like animal management, zoology, or veterinary science.

In the UK, you may be able to get into this role by doing an apprenticeship in an area like animal training or animal care and welfare, then becoming a trainee zookeeper.

You may need a driving licence if you're working in a large zoo or safari park.

## Related university subject profiles

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These university subjects are related to this career; check out their profiles on the [Subjects library](#):

- [Animal science](#) >
- [Veterinary medicine](#) >
- [Zoology](#) >

## Related career profiles

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You may also be interested in:

- [Fish farmer](#) >
- [Zoologist](#) >
- [Farmer](#) >
- [Veterinary nurse](#) >

- [Animal care assistant >](#)

## Explore

Want to see what relevant education and training opportunities are available right now? Search here:

### Animal science at uni:

- [USA >](#)
- [UK >](#)
- [Canada >](#)
- [Europe >](#)
- [Asia >](#)
- [Australasia >](#)
- [Middle East and Africa >](#)
- [Ireland >](#)

### Veterinary medicine at uni:

- [USA >](#)
- [UK >](#)
- [Canada >](#)
- [Europe >](#)
- [Asia >](#)
- [Australasia >](#)
- [Middle East and Africa >](#)
- [Ireland >](#)

### Zoology at uni:

- [USA >](#)
- [UK >](#)
- [Canada >](#)
- [Europe >](#)
- [Asia >](#)
- [Australasia >](#)
- [Middle East and Africa >](#)
- [Ireland >](#)

### Apprenticeships:

- [UK >](#)

### College / Sixth Form:

- [UK >](#)

## Labour Market Information (LMI)

Current and predicted figures relating to the Zookeeper profession. Median averages are shown, each with the specific career, or group of careers, that they apply to.

- UK
- USA

### Jobs

Animal care and control services

**80,659**

 **318** in your local area of Liverpool

#### Top 5 local areas

1	Hampshire	2,906
2	Essex	2,505
3	Kent	2,448
4	Suffolk	2,378
5	Surrey	2,320

### Salaries

Animal care services occupations n.e.c.



# £21,933

Animal care and control services

# £22,734

📍 (Not enough data for this region) in your region of North West

### Top 3 regions

1	East of England	£25,421
2	South East	£22,933

### Growth

2020-2035

Caring personal service occupations

# +13.9%

↑ 328,648 jobs

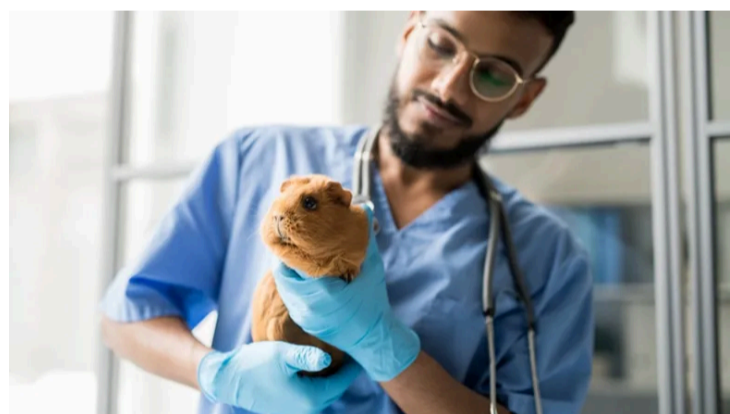
📍 +17.7% in your region of North West, an increase of 52,031 jobs

Save to Favourites? 

You haven't favourited any Careers library profiles yet

## People also liked...

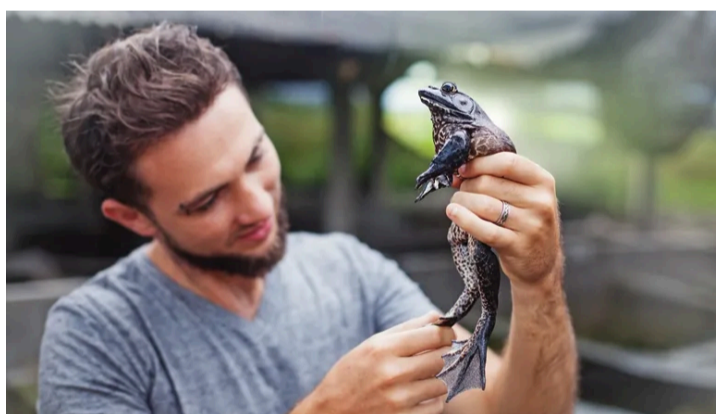
Those that liked this career profile also liked the following



### Animal care assistant

Animal care assistants look after animals in places like kennels, rescue centres, or sanctuaries.

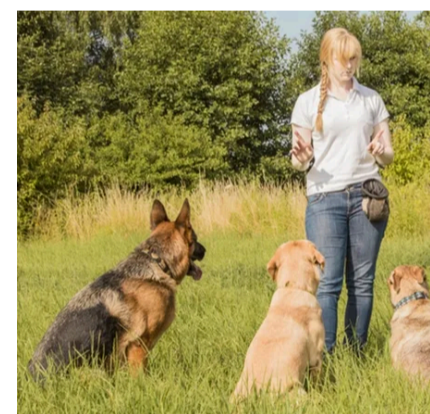
[Read the profile >](#)



### Zoologist

Zoologists study animals and their behaviours, including topics like evolution, physiology, and classification.

[Read the profile >](#)



### Kennel worker

Kennel workers care for dogs and catteries.

[Read the profile >](#)