

Wild experiences programme at Department of National Zoological Gardens

1. Introduction

The wild experiences programme at the Department provide a fascinating glimpse into the inner workings of animal care, behavior and conservation efforts of a zoo. These exclusive encounters allows one to explore areas not accessible to a general visitor of the zoo.

Wild experiences programme aims to cultivate and inspire passionate individuals who will acquire the expertise and skills necessary for effective wildlife management through comprehensive training and experiential learning. Participants will develop a profound understanding of compassionate animal care, conservation strategies, public education, and sustainable practices, positioning them as future leaders in the field of zoological institutions. This programme seeks to empower trainees to contribute actively to the welfare of the animals, promote biodiversity conservation, environmental responsibility and foster an enriching community engagement through this experience .

Wild experiences programme is divided into two facades

- (I). Zoo keeper for a day Programme.
- (II). Veterinary Assistant for a day Programme.

2. Benefits of wild experiences programme

- ❖ Those who are passionate about wild animals can get close to them and study their behavior patterns, diet patterns, and their lives in depth. As well as, the ex-situ conservation efforts of the animals.
- ❖ The participant can gain knowledge about zoo management techniques with scientific integrity.
- ❖ Participants will get lifetime memorable experiences with them with an internationally valid certification. (The certificate will be issued at the end of the programme)
- ❖ Trainees will also be a contribution to the research, innovation, conservation education and outreach for community engagement of the zoos.
- ❖ They will learn and experience the values of conservation excellence through collaborations and partnerships .

3. Requirements for trainee for the wild experiences Programme

- ❖ Specific qualifications are not needed but participants with a wildlife or veterinary background are preferred.
- ❖ Trainees must obtain an appropriate insurance policy for their own safety, and a copy of the insurance must be handed over before commencing the wild experiences Programme .

4. Working Hours

The working hours of the wild experiences Programme are from 8:30 am to 5.00 pm daily.

5. Memorandum of understanding (MOU) on providing wild experiences Programme

Both parties (The Department of National Zoological Gardens and the Trainee) should sign the MOU on the registration date.

6. Rules and Regulations

- ❖ Participants are not permitted directly to approach the animals unless it is a guided interaction.
- ❖ Refrain entry to the prohibited area.
- ❖ Guiding visitors is prohibited.
- ❖ Consumption of alcohol and smoking within the Zoo is strictly prohibited.
- ❖ The Department of National Zoological Gardens will not take any responsibility for any loss of property, personal injury, illness, or accident sustained by the trainee.
- ❖ The trainee has to obey the laws of the Sri Lankan Government.
- ❖ The Director has the authority to terminate the trainee in case of breaching the rules and regulations of the Department of National Zoological Gardens without subjecting them to any claim.

7. Zoo Keeper for a day Programme

The zoo keeper for a day programme primarily focuses on training participants in the areas of animal shed cleaning, animal enclosure management, and animal husbandry management. The goal is to raise awareness among trainees about wild animals cared for in zoos and conservation efforts. Trainees also have the opportunity to engage in landscape management work at zoos. The deputy directors, assistant directors, animal section heads (curators) and garden supervisors are responsible for training the participants of the Zoo Keeper for a day Programme. The form of the programme may vary slightly from institution to institution.

Below are the main duties and responsibilities assigned to the trainees participating in the Field Work Assistant Trainee Programme.

- Clean animal enclosures/ exhibits.
- Prepare and distribute food for animals.
- Wash the dishes (water and food troughs) of the animals.
- Help to clean the animals.
- Provide animal enrichment activities.
- Maintain planters and paths.
- Maintain the gardens (Zoo landscape management).

8. Veterinary Assistant for a day Programme

The Veterinary Assistant for a day programme primarily focuses on training participants in the areas of animal health and nutrition, aiming to raise awareness among trainees about the conservation efforts undertaken by the institution. The veterinarians and the staff on animal health and nutrition train the trainees of the Veterinary Assistant Trainee Programme.

- Behavioural training of zoo animals.
- Physical restraint of zoo animals.
- Diagnostic techniques.
- Drug administration of zoo animals.
- Anaesthetic consideration of zoo animals.
- Regulatory issues regarding zoo animals.
- Zoonoses of zoo animals.
- Study of Menu cards prepared according to the nutritional requirements of zoo animals.
- Preventive medicine.
- Hand rearing of rejected babies in the animal nursery.
- Animal nutrition.

The trainees should start their day at 8.30 am. First, he/ she should attend the team meeting led by a section curator or keeper in the animal section. The curators/supervisors of the relevant section will determine the daily arrangement of the training. Once the meeting ends, the trainees will head to their assigned areas and begin the day's work.

9. How to apply

The format of the wild experiences Programme application is annexed to this as appendix 'A'.

- ❖ The duly completed applications (hardcopy) should be forwarded to the Director General, Department of National Zoological Gardens, Anagarika Dharamapala Mawatha, Dehiwala, or emailed (softcopy) via zoosl@slt.lk to the Director General to process for the selection.
- ❖ An appointment letter will be given before the trainee starts the trainee programme.

10. Trainee fees

Trainees enrolled in the wild experiences programme are required to pay the following charges for the respective programme.

- ❖ Payment can be made on the date of registration.
- ❖ The payments should be made in Sri Lankan Rupees. Also, card payments are acceptable.
- ❖ The payment is not refunded in any case.

10.1. For local adults

The registration fee for the wild experiences Programme for local adults is Rs.650/-+VAT. All trainees should be paid the registration fee for the registration programme.

10.1.1. Zoo keeper for a day Programme (local adults)

Zoo keeper for a day Programme	1 day(Rs)	1 week (Rs)	2 weeks (Rs)	3 weeks(Rs)	1 month(Rs)	2 months (Rs)	3 months(Rs)
Current Rate	600/- +VAT	4000/- +VAT	5500/- +VAT	7000/- +VAT	8000/-+VAT	9000/- +VAT	10000/- +VAT

10.1.2. Veterinary Assistant for a day Programme (local adults)

Veterinary Assistant for a day Programme	1 day(Rs)	1 week(Rs)	2 weeks(Rs)	3 weeks(Rs)	1 month(Rs)	2 months(Rs)	3 months(Rs)
Current Rate	800/- +VAT	5500/- +VAT	7000/- +VAT	8000/- +VAT	9000/- +VAT	10500/- +VAT	12000/- +VAT

10.2. For local students under 18 years

The registration fee for the wild experiences programme for local students under the age of 18 is Rs.650/-+VAT. All trainees should be paid the registration fee for the registration programme.

10.2.1. Zoo keeper for a day Programme(local students)

Zoo keeper for a day Programme	1 day(Rs.)	1 week(Rs.)	1 month(Rs.)	2 months(Rs.)	3 months(Rs.)
Current Rate	600/- +VAT	2000/- +VAT	4000/- +VAT	5000/- +VAT	6000/- +VAT

10.2.2. Veterinary Assistant for a day Programme (local students)

Veterinary Assistant for a day Programme	1 day(Rs.)	1 week(Rs.)	1 month(Rs.)	2 months(Rs.)	3 months(Rs.)
Current Rate	800/- +VAT	3000/- +VAT	5000/- +VAT	6000/- +VAT	8000/- +VAT.

10.3. For foreign adults

The registration fee for the programme for foreign adults is US\$ 20+VAT. All trainees should be paid the registration fee for the registration programme.

10.4. Zoo keeper for a day programme (foreign adults)

Zoo keeper for a day Programme	1 -3 days (US\$)	1 week (US\$)	2 weeks (US\$)	3 weeks (US\$)	1 month (US\$)	2 months (US\$)	3 months (US\$)
Current Rate	25 +VAT	125 +VAT	250 +VAT	375 +VAT	450 +VAT	650 +VAT	750 +VAT

10.5. Veterinary Assistant for a day programme (foreign adults)

Veterinary Assistant for a day	1 -3 days (US\$)	1 week (US\$)	2 weeks (US\$)	3 weeks (US\$)	1 month (US\$)	2 months (US\$)	3 months (US\$)
Current Rate	30 +VAT	160 +VAT	300 +VAT	400 +VAT	500 +VAT	700 +VAT	800 +VAT

10.6. For foreign Students

The registration fee for the wild experiences programme for foreign student is US\$ 20+VAT. All trainees should be paid the registration fee for the registration programme.

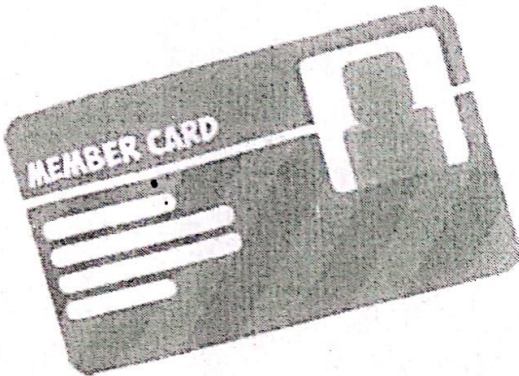
10.7. Zoo keeper for a day programme (foreign students)

Zoo keeper for a day programme	1 day (US\$)	1 week (US\$)	1 month (US\$)	2 months (US\$)	3 months (US\$)
Current Rate	15 +VAT	70 +VAT	230 +VAT	360 +VAT	460 +VAT

10.8. Veterinary Assistant for a day programme (foreign students)

Veterinary Assistant for a day programme	1 day (US\$)	1 week (US\$)	1 month (US\$)	2 months (US\$)	3 months (US\$)
Current Rate	20 +VAT	80 +VAT	300 +VAT	400 +VAT	500 +VAT

11.wild experiences Membership



Upon registering for the wild experiences programme, trainees will receive a one-year membership, enabling them to participate again and again in the program during this period by paying only the relevant program charge. During the membership year, there is no need to submit an additional registration fee for participation in the current year's Zoo Management Trainee Programme.

Wild experience programme
Department of National Zoological Gardens
Application Form

1. Name : _____

2. Sex: Male Female

3. Date of Birth:

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Paste your
 photograph here

4. Country: _____

5. Passport Number/ Identity Card Number :

If you are a Foreign National, please mention the visa details and validity.

6. Current residential address:
 Note: A post office box address is not acceptable as a residential address.

7. Postal address
 (If same as your residential address, write "AS ABOVE")

8. Contact number : _____

9. Fax number : _____

10. Email address : _____

11. Qualifications:

12. Previous experiences of volunteer work:

13. Requesting programme: Zoo keeper for a day programme
 Veterinary Assistant for a day programme

14. Select the programme duration:

One day	One week	Two weeks	Three weeks	One month	Two months	Three months

or

Number of days you prefer

15. Mention the requested programme duration:

From _____ To _____

16. Any additional information/ requirements:

17. **In case of emergency,**

Details of the immediate person who wishes to contact

Full name: _____

Relationship to the volunteer: _____

Contact numbers: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

18. I do hereby certify that the particulars furnished above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and agree to the rules and regulations pertaining to the department.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

19. This is to confirm that I, (_____) the [mother/ father/ guardian] of _____ and that I will support my [son/ daughter/ ward] during [his/ her] training period. I give my consent to my son/ daughter/ ward to enroll in a Zoo keeper for a day programme/ Veterinary Assistant for a day programme in Dehiwala Zoo/ Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage/ Pinnawala Zoo/ Ridiyagama Safari Park.

Signature of Guardian : _____ Date: _____