**Curriculum Vitae**

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**Profile**

Having attained a BSc in Animal Behaviour and Welfare at The University of Chester in 2018, I have since then continued to gain significant practical experience striving to apply the knowledge that I gained throughout my degree. I have extended my learning in a variety of different environments, from the first year of my degree being held at Reaseheath College and Zoo, to several weeks carrying out field trip work in Costa Rica, as well as gaining a variety of different animal welfare experiences at Shuttleworth College for two years, and most recently carrying out my internship at The Big Cat Sanctuary. My Journey at The Big Cat Sanctuary began as a part time volunteer, this immediately affirmed my goal of becoming a zookeeper. I secured the Carnivore Internship in which I have gained a wealth of experience and knowledge which continues to grow as I complete training on different units, such as Tiger, Jaguars, Leopards, Cheetahs and a diverse range of small cats. My aspiration is to expand my working experiences and assist the animals I work with to the best of my ability, enabling my knowledge to be put to further practice. Prior experience and education have aided the development of my knowledge on the welfare and husbandry of animals and has allowed me to gain greater confidence in my skills and what I can offer to this role. Within every aspect of my previous employment and education I have strengthened my ability to work as a team, whilst also having the confidence to work independently.

**Employment**

**July 2019 – Present (Contract due to finish October 2020 with extension of three months): Carnivore Intern at The Big Cat Sanctuary – Full Time**

My current position at The Big Cat Sanctuary has allowed me to receive full training as a Keeper. This includes a variety of different units which has expanded my exposure and understanding as well as continuously taking part in interactions with others during the Sanctuary tours.

* I am currently able to work on units that include: Jaguars, Leopards, Tigers, Cheetahs, and in the process of being trained up on our Lion unit;
* The small cats in which I work with are: Caracal, Fishing Cat, Eurasian Lynx, Servals, Sri Lankan Rusty Spotted Cat, Pallas’ Cat, and a Jungle Cat;
* I have been able to become a cheetah second, so I am now able to go into an enclosure with our cheetahs with another Keeper;
* I can prepare food for each cat dependent on their weight, the season and their personal body condition. Food can be provided in their enclosure hidden, scattered or by providing food enrichment so the cat can be stimulated both physically and mentally;
* As well as feeding the cats, I have been able to prepare an array of enrichment either incorporating food or just an item itself being enriching. Similarly, this can be dependent on the animal due to some being stronger, more playful and destructive than others;
* Once their enclosures are cleaned and maintained and the cats are sent out, their dens can be cleaned also. Dependent on how dirty the bed is they may require a full clean or spot clean, and sometimes needing to be disinfected so I am able to do so accordingly;
* Fresh and clean water provided in both inside the dens and outside enclosures for each cat;
* Collecting faeces from enclosures to maintain good husbandry and also on occasions for sampling to send off to the vets;
* I have continued to maintain high standards of the enclosures for the husbandry of the cats, and around site for visitors;
* I am currently taking part in training one of the tigers to allow closer encounters giving vaccinations and taking blood withdrawals.

**April 2019 – July 2019: Dog walker at The Dog Pack – Part Time**

I worked with the team at The Dog Pack between finishing my previous job and travelling. This job required being prompt and punctual as well as observant and mindful of which dogs are being walked together with recognising their different behaviours, personalities and activity levels. This role included:

* Meeting the head walker at the preferred location and taking as many as 15 dogs out on a walk either altogether or splitting the group in two or three;
* For dogs with more specific needs I was trusted to visit a customer’s home to collect their dog and go for a local walk. In these cases, it can be due to them having more behavioural differences or had recent medical treatment.

**June 2018 – March 2019: Animal Welfare Assistant at Blue Cross Rehoming Centre for Cats and Dogs – Part time**

My role at the Blue Cross entailed caring for dogs and the cats in the centre. My time at Blue Cross allowed me to put my knowledge of animals and working with customers to practice and continue to develop my understanding of animals in different environments.

My duties included:

* Feeding – specific to their weight, health requirements and body condition;
* Assessing their behaviour; upon their first week we would spend time filling in a portfolio of the dog or cat to see how they cope in certain situations. This could include how they are around us and food, toys, in a home environment, how they walk on the lead, or around other people and animals etc.
* Providing training – specific to the dog, some needed help with social interactions with other dogs or even strangers, separation anxiety or recall etc.
* Cleaning the dog kennels and the cattery;
* Exercise with the dogs; and
* Assisting with helping to find each pet a suitable home. I would always do my upmost to ensure it would be a good fit for both the customer as well as the pet, working with them to help them gain a greater understanding of the pet and assisting with visits to prepare for the rehoming.

**August 2017 – March 2018: Home Loved Pets – Dog Walker & Pet Sitter – Part Time**

During my final year at university I worked for Home Loved Pets. Each task consists of providing high quality service where we collected and dropped off the dogs using a check in/out system. My duties consisted of:

* Dog walking – going into customer homes to collect and drop off their dogs;
* Visiting and feeding cats whose owners were away;
* Pet sitting; and
* Whole day care, in which the pet would join me with others on walks.

**November 2014 – January 2018: Boots – Sales Assistant – Part Time**

My day to day role continued to vary due to be trained in all section of the shop floor. This role enabled me to obtain invaluable people skills, whilst working in a fast-paced environment dealing with many different queries a customer may have. I have gained extensive customer service experience and always continued to ensure I provided the highest quality service to every customer. Similarly, working both in a team and as an individual is a major focus point when working as a sales assistant.

My responsibilities included:

* Keeping the beauty aisles stocked up;
* Helping with any customer queries in regard to beauty, fragrance or any other help on the shop floor;
* Working on the tills;
* Keeping the seasonal aisles stocked and organised;
* Making sure products we do have on the shop floor and in the stock room are correct, and updating the system if not for more to be ordered;
* Selling products on sale at the front of the store;
* Creating new shelves at the end of an aisle filled with products on sale and biggest sellers.

**2014 – David Barney & Co – Office Junior**

As well as working at this law firm for my year 10 work experience, I also carried out work on an adhoc basis when temporary cover was required.

My duties included:

* Dictation;
* Faxing correspondence;
* Handling calls and visitors at reception;
* Managing the switchboard; and
* Filing documents and correspondence.

**Education**

**2015 – 2018: Chester University – BSc Animal Behaviour and Welfare**

The first year of my degree was taught at Reaseheath College, in which I had the opportunity to gain experience within their zoo each week working with a variety of animals. Some of which included: Ocelot, Tapirs, Birds of Prey, Porcupines, and Otters. It was also a great opportunity to work within the kennels at Reaseheath College carrying out the cleaning of kennels and grooming and feeding the dogs. My second and third year was spent solely at Chester University, which also allowed me to have more access into Chester Zoo where I carried out my dissertation titled "Enclosure use of Sumatran Tigers”.

**2013 – 2015: Shuttleworth College – Animal Management Level 3 Extended Diploma**

This two-year course provided me with full time animal welfare experience. During my Diploma I cared for and helped maintain a large range of animals within their animal care centre. For example, a focal point of each week would be a different group of taxon, including: Mammals (e.g. Coati and Fruit bats), Reptiles (e.g. Caiman and Water Monitor Lizard), Amphibians (e.g. Spotted salamander and Green tree frog), Invertebrates (e.g Stick insects and Millipedes) and Rodents (e.g. Rats and Capybara).

**2008 – 2013 – The John Henry Newman School**

GCSE grades consisted of three B’s and six C’s.

**Volunteering/Work Experience**

**May 2017 – Costa Rica**

I spent two weeks in Costa Rica for my university work experience carrying out a number of amazing activities. We implemented mammal, bird, reptile and amphibian surveys. The measures in which we carried out to record the data included: point surveys, transects and scan sampling. Identifying Costa Rican animal’s and setting out camera traps as well as collecting data of sloth’s ad capuchin monkeys for university studies. We also conducted behavioural analysis and data handling of the results collected from the surveys. Each day we transferred the recorded results on to excel and SPSS and then analysed in which we could then discuss and evaluate our findings.

**March 2015 – Mimram Kennels**

Throughout my four weeks volunteering at the kennels, I had several different responsibilities.  Due to enjoying my time so much and hard work, I was lucky enough to be asked to assist in tasks other volunteers would not usually complete to aid in the help of the kennels.

The tasks which I carried out included:

* Grooming;
* Cleaning
* Walking all of the dogs;
* Feeding;
* Working within the office to check the dogs in and out and handling the calls.

**June 2012 – Nazing Garden Centre**

My volunteering tasks included helping to take care of their animals such as horses, goats, dogs, cats and chipmunks in which I would carry out the:

* Cleaning;
* Feeding; and
* Ensuring they have sufficient exercise.

**References**

Available on request.