

Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre

Veterinary Placements



About Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre

Stapeley Grange wildlife centre has been caring for wildlife casualties since it opened in 1994. Every year the centre treats thousands of animals from north-west England, the north Midlands and north Wales. Stapeley Grange complements the RSPCA's other wildlife centres at East Winch in Norfolk, West Hatch in Somerset and Mallydams Wood in East Sussex. Together, the wildlife centres fulfill the RSPCA's commitment to provide expert veterinary care and rehabilitation of wildlife casualties throughout England and Wales.



Wildlife Assistant weighing a swan © Andrew Forsyth / RSPCA Photolibrary

At Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre we rehabilitate a whole range of animals including waterfowl, birds of prey, garden birds, and mammals such as hedgehogs, badgers, foxes and otters. We have:

- Trained and dedicated personnel with detailed knowledge and wide experience of wildlife care, rehabilitation, release and post release monitoring.
- The services of highly skilled veterinary surgeons with a wide range of experience in treating wildlife.
- An X-ray unit and fully equipped operating theatre - providing the best facilities for diagnosis and emergency treatment.
- An extensive range of large pools, pens, waterfowl paddocks, a bat flight and various aviaries that provide the right conditions and space so that animals can recover fully before they are released.
- A specially designed intensive care unit with cubicles of various sizes that can be individually controlled to provide the correct levels of heat, light and ventilation for each animal.
- A separate unit for cleaning oiled seabirds and waterfowl.
- Food storage and preparation facilities to suit the diets of a wide range of wildlife.

Veterinary Placements

Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre offers work placement opportunities for fourth and fifth year veterinary students to work alongside our dedicated wildlife veterinarian team, to contribute to the rehabilitation of the region's injured and orphaned wildlife.

Our wildlife vets are from Birch Heath Veterinary Clinic in Tarporley near Chester. The practice specialises in the investigation and treatment of all avian, reptile, small mammals, wildlife and zoo animals. Their veterinary surgeons have an international reputation and have lectured extensively both in the UK and worldwide.

During your time at Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre you may have the opportunity to:

- Build knowledge of and gain handling experience with a wide range of wildlife
- Gain valuable wildlife triage experience
- Taking blood samples and interpreting the results
- Assist in taking x-rays
- Carry out minor surgery under direct supervision
- Assist in endoscopy work
- Conduct post mortems



Activities are dependent on the animals in our care at the time of your placement.



Requirements:

Placements are available year round for fourth and fifth year veterinary students. Our busy season is from May to September and during this time you will experience the broadest range of activities. However, during the quiet season there will be more time to get involved in more in-depth activities such as post mortems. We can offer up to two placements at one time during the busy season and one placement at a time during the quiet season. Placements are available in blocks of two to five weeks. Students are expected to work from 8.30am to 5.30pm for five days a week (week days only).

Applying:

We accept applications for veterinary placements year round. However, please apply early in order to have the best possible chance of securing a place on the dates you require. To apply please contact:

student-stapeley@rspca.org.uk or 0300 123 0722 for a veterinary placement application form.