

Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre

Student 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.

Student placements - short term and long term

Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre offers work placement opportunities to work alongside our dedicated wildlife team to contribute to the rehabilitation of the country's injured and orphaned wildlife. We offer a set number of work experience placements each year. They are available to anyone working or training to work with wildlife e.g. college and university students studying wildlife related subjects.

We can arrange for you to rotate through all areas of work at the centre in order to gain a breadth of experience or you can choose to specialise in one area, for example in order to carry out a research project. Areas of work include:



- isolation area
- fledgling room
- orphan room
- bat flight
- mammal enclosures
- corvid aviaries
- raptor aviaries
- passerine aviaries
- waterfowl paddock
- wildlife releases

Wildlife supervisor feeding magpies © Andrew Forsyth / RSPCA photolibrary

Routine duties include cleaning out enclosures, feeding the animals, hand feeding young animals, washing up, keeping the centre clean and tidy, mopping floors, preparing feeds and restocking supplies. There may also be opportunities to be involved in releases. The work varies greatly throughout the year and we would encourage work placement students to stay as long as possible in order to gain the most from their experience.

Requirements:

Long term placements (6 months to 12 months) - We have four placements available each year for students who can work for 6 months to 12 months. Start dates vary according to the length of the placement but should ideally begin either side of our busy season (May to September) to allow for a training period. Students are expected to work the same shifts as staff (4 days on, 2 days off), including evening shifts and weekends. A holiday break can be arranged in off-peak time if you are working 44 weeks or longer. Shared accommodation may be available.

Short term placements (1 month to 6 months) - We have three short term work placements available at any one time from April to September. These are available in one month blocks but multiple blocks can be booked (up to 6 months). Students are expected to work a minimum of four days per week, possibly including some evening shifts and weekends. However, it might be possible to make alternative arrangements if you have other commitments.

We ask that work placement students attend an induction period before starting. This is a day for short term placements or a full week for long term placements. Students must be aged 16 years or older and have an up to date tetanus vaccination.

Applying:

We accept applications for work placements in January each year (deadline 31st January). Selection takes place in February (this may include an interview) and an induction will be arranged to fit with your start date. Start dates can be arranged to fit college time tables. If you are interested in applying for a work placement please contact:

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