
Experienced Herpetology Keeper

Aquatris Aquarium – Vivarium

Located to the north of Lausanne in Switzerland, Aquatris is the largest freshwater aquarium in Europe. Our institution invites visitors to immerse themselves in a journey through the 5 continents to discover the main freshwater ecosystems. With a main focus on aquatic animals and species of the herpetofauna, Aquatris hosts a broad range of fishes, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, birds, and invertebrates.

Species Conservation is at the heart of Aquatris' values and we are directly involved or leading several missions.

With a growing collection and numerous development projects, our team is looking to expand to always guarantee the highest standards of animal welfare for our occupants as well as the best experience for our guests.

An exciting position has arisen to join our Animal Care team as an Experienced Herpetology Keeper with a focus on venomous animals.

We are seeking an experienced keeper, having worked with a broad range of reptiles, including venomous and dangerous animals. This role is varied and will also include supporting or leading the development of new projects as well as, to a lesser extent, working with other taxonomic groups.

The Position

Job title: Experienced Herpetology Keeper

Salary: CHF 4,500.00 to CHF 5,200.00 per months, depending on experience, over 13 months/year.

Benefits: Pension scheme, accident cover, 34 days annual leave (including 9 bank holidays).

Hours: 42 hours per week, including weekend and bank holidays as required.

Location: Aquatris Aquarium - Vivarium, Lausanne, Switzerland.

Reports to: Curator and Deputy Curator.

Management: Coordinate and train apprentices, interns and volunteers.

Purpose: To ensure the highest standards of animal welfare and visitor experience through husbandry routines, animal nutrition, enclosure design and maintenance, enrichment and training development as well as assisting our veterinary team when required. The role will involve working extensively with venomous animals.

Closing date: Monday 7th April 2025

The Role

Animal management:

- Carry out animal husbandry according to the latest knowledge and best practices, with considerations to national and international laws and regulations.
- Follow up and record animal observations.
- Contribute to conservation projects.
- Contribute to zoological research.
- Strictly adhere to Venomous Animals policy and procedures.
- Adhere to Biosecurity policy and procedures.
- Participate in animal management operations and veterinary procedures as required.
- Manage specific working equipment.

Training:

- Supervise / support training of apprentices, interns and volunteers.
- Support the training of other junior keepers.

Health and safety:

- Strongly adhere to health and safety policy and procedures.
- Maintain understanding of emergency procedures.
- Undertake programme of continued safety training.

Communication and public awareness:

- Engage with members of the public both formally and informally.
- Participate in public awareness programmes.
- Facilitate media and marketing initiatives as required.
- Helps maintain the public representation and reputation of the institution.

Compliance:

- Maintain understanding of ethical, population management and animal welfare policies.
 - Maintain a good understanding and strictly adhere to national and international animal protection laws.
 - Undertake programmes of continued professional development.
 - Adhere to environmental policy, procedures and laws.
 - Maintain a good understanding and strictly adhere to institution's employee policy and procedures.
-

The Candidate

Essential:

- Swiss CFC (gardien d'animaux – animaux sauvages), international equivalent in animal management qualification or proven working experience.
- Proven experience in the husbandry, management and handling of numerous species of venomous and dangerous reptiles.
- Comprehensive knowledge and wide-ranging experience of modern exotic animal management.
- Ability to strictly adhere to policy and procedures.
- Specific knowledge and taxonomic specialism in herpetofauna.
- Understanding of Biosecurity prophylaxis measures.
- Understanding of contribution of zoos to conservation, science, education programmes.
- Understanding of health and safety requirements.

Desirable:

- Proficiency in French or strong willingness to learn.
- Degree in animal management or biological sciences.

Attributes:

- IT skills and proficiency in use of software (office pack, ZIMS, ...).
- Problem solving and creativity mind set.
- Aptitude to combining academic and practical aspects of the role.
- Strong communication and people skills.
- Proficiency in English - any Swiss national language.
- Experience with other taxonomic groups, especially fish.
- Experience with Life support systems.
- Experience in plant management.
- Diving qualification.
- An understanding of the values of our institution.

If you would like to join a unique institution, become part of dynamic team, help improving the knowledge in animal welfare and contribute to the conservation of endangered species, submit your curriculum vitae and cover letter to: info@aquatis.ch
