

Zz

REBECCA STONE

ZOO KEEPER APPRENTICE



WHICH APPRENTICESHIP ARE YOU DOING?

Zoo Keeper and Aquarist Apprentice.

WHAT LEVEL IS YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?

Advanced (level 3).

WHAT DO YOU DO?

As a Zookeeper my role is to ensure the wellbeing of the animals in our care, ranging from lions and tigers to meerkats and armadillos. My daily tasks include preparing and delivering meals tailored to the specific dietary needs of different animals, cleaning out enclosures, providing stimulating enrichment and assisting in animal training. Engaging with the public is another key aspect of my role. I help with educating visitors about wildlife conservation, the importance of natural habitats, and the role zoos play in protecting endangered species. As an apprentice, I'm not just learning the practical aspects of zookeeping but also the importance of conservation efforts, both within and outside the zoo as well as developing my knowledge on animal behaviour and science.



WHAT IS THE MOST EXCITING PROJECT YOU HAVE WORKED ON?

I was recently involved in a health check of our three otter pups who are only six weeks old. This involved catching them in order to weigh, microchip and determine their gender. We have one girl and two boys called Lalita, Dali and Cahya. Being able to hold the pups at that age is an experience I will never forget.

WHAT IS YOUR PROUDEST APPRENTICESHIP MOMENT?

I had the unique opportunity to watch our baby porcupine, Otieno, grow over the last few months. I was the first one to see Oti the day he was born at just a few hours old. Porcupines are a nocturnal animal but are very active when food is involved. Being able to watch him develop and begin eating solid food was such an incredible experience.

WHICH FEMALE INSPIRES YOU AND WHY?

Dr. Jane Goodall is an inspiration to me because of her unwavering dedication to wildlife conservation. Her groundbreaking research on chimpanzees challenged conventional scientific thinking and has redefined our understanding of primates. Working in a predominantly male field, she was committed to making a difference and breaking down barriers to create the change that she wanted. Jane Goodall's life is a dedication to animal conservation, embodying the very essence of what I aspire to achieve in my career and in my contributions to protecting our natural world.

**DARE TO BE A LIGHTHOUSE IN A STORMY
SEA OF DOUBT AND FEAR, YOUR COURAGE
TO SHINE BRIGHT INSPIRES OTHERS TO FIND
THEIR WAY.**

