

Aquarist/Animal Care Team Member- full time

Sea Life Trust Beluga Whale Sanctuary

The world's first Beluga whale sanctuary is located in beautiful Vestmannaeyjar, Iceland.

We are looking to build a creative and motivated team that has the skill to be part of this amazing opportunity. ...

Brief Job Description- Member of the animal care team, under direction from the Curator, responsible for the delivery of highest standard of animal care; diet preparation, habitat maintenance and behavioral management of collection of aquarium animals, with additional duties supporting in puffin and beluga whale care as assigned. Looking for someone interested and available for a full-time position.

JOB PURPOSE

- As directed to deliver consistently high standards of animal husbandry and welfare for all species within our care, including the puffin rescue, rehabilitation and release program, while also maintaining compelling guest facing displays within the aquarium and puffin areas
- As directed to maintain high level of operation and maintenance of life support systems for all species in our care
- To play a key role in the continual development of displays in line with the displays development plan (DDP).
- To play a key role in the ongoing development of the quarantine areas for fish species and puffins.
- Support beluga whale welfare and training goals as assigned.

BUSINESS IMPACT/RESULTS

- Site based responsibility.
- Daily responsibility for the delivery of animal husbandry for puffins and several species of fish, life support systems operation and maintenance.
- Following agreed processes to ensure that all purchases are within budget.
- As directed ensure completion of all record systems within displays to comply with standards of operation and comply with local legal requirements (e.g. Zoo License).
- As directed communicate as a marine expert on matters arising around displays and the creatures or marine environment.
- Comply with the statutory and company regulations regarding Health and Safety at work.
- Working within quality guidelines to ensure that displays run smoothly and efficiently.
- Daily responsibility for the delivery of animal husbandry, life support systems operation and maintenance.
- As a key member of the displays team, life support system callout duties are required.
- Deliver high quality of work level to ensure that all areas are cross checked before end of day.
- Daily responsibility for the effective operation of the displays, life support systems and animal husbandry.

CREATIVITY

- Actively engage with visitors when suitable tasks are being carried out to enhance the visitor experience.
- Working with the rest of the animal welfare team to generate innovative ideas to enhance displays or husbandry.
- As directed help with the installation of new trials that are key to creating more efficient practices.
- As directed working within the guidelines for Animal Health, Animals Husbandry, Displays Creation and Maintenance and Life Support Systems operation and maintenance.

COMMUNICATION

- As directed on a site level, communicate with the site team to ensure that the team is aware of the key initiatives and routine activities in quarantines.
- As directed or required communicate with central resources or external consultants to resolve issues related to the facilities.
- Deliver excellent communication with the rest of the displays development team to ensure site issues are resolved appropriately and efficiently.

DECISION MAKING & AUTONOMY

- Execute and manage Health and Safety in conjunction with the site Health and Safety coordinator.
- Work within the departmental / site guidelines, ensuring that on a daily and weekly basis the displays are maintained and developed to high standards
- Deliver effective decision making whilst working within ethical and operation policies of SEA LIFE.

APPLIED KNOWLEDGE & SPECIALIST SKILLS

- As gained through significant experience as a home aquarist or through advanced studies / education.
- A working knowledge of Life Support Systems as employed on the site to ensure correct maintenance is carried out in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations and swift resolution of problems if they occur.
- A good knowledge of the Water Environment, which will allow the identification and resolution of problems with the environment for the animals.
- A practical ability to create 'wow' displays with a working knowledge of the correct use of Theming, Lighting, and Water Movement to deliver this.
- A good understanding of animal husbandry, animal behaviour and acquisition of animals to ensure each display houses amazing creatures.
- A practical ability to participate in conservation projects and environmental impact reduction that assist in underpinning the SEA LIFE brand. .

MANAGING RESOURCES

- As directed effective management of budgets.
- Following Merlin policies within region of operation.

COMPLEXITY & PROBLEM SOLVING

- Resolution of non-routine and unique displays related problems, via communication with site based team or via central resources.

Qualifications Required:

- Valid driver's license and clean driving record

Physical Requirements

- Good physical condition: able to lift a minimum of 25 kg, ability to work in and around cold water environments.

Experience and Qualities Preferred

- Open water dive certification
- Bachelor's degree in zoology, biology or a related field
- Experience with operant conditioning
- Lab or veterinary technician experience
- Boat captain license
- Drysuit/cold water dive experience and certification
- Rescue dive certification
- CPR/First Aid certification