

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER IN ANIMAL WELFARE SCIENCE

The Antwerp Zoo Centre for Research and Conservation (CRC) is seeking to employ a Postdoctoral Researcher in Animal Welfare Science

The Postdoctoral Researcher in Animal Welfare Science will be involved in applied and fundamental zoo-research and related activities of the *Antwerp Zoo Centre for Research and Conservation* (CRC). The CRC is the government-funded research institute of the *Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp* (RZSA), which is active within the society's grounds (Antwerp Zoo, Planckendael Animal Park, and the nature reserve "De Zegge"), in its own field-based conservation projects in Cameroon, DR-Congo and Brazil, and as a partner in collaborative research projects with zoological gardens and academic institutions worldwide.

The successful candidate is expected to develop and perform multidisciplinary and multi-institutional research projects focused on applied zoo animal behaviour and animal welfare science. As such he/she will be responsible for taking a scientific approach to better understand, assess and monitor zoo animal welfare, and to use this knowledge for improving zoo animal well-being and informing evidence-based animal management and husbandry in close collaboration with the zoo-vet and animal management.

Additional tasks include:

- Disseminating research outcomes in peer reviewed journals and at scientific and professional conferences and workshops;
- Actively applying for research funding;
- Undergraduate teaching, student supervision, and (co)developing and supervising PhD student projects;
- Providing occasional training to animal care staff, and promoting appropriate and beneficial keeper–animal relationships;
- Supporting and participating in public outreach and education activities of the RZSA.

The successful candidate should have:

- A relevant Ph.D. or DVM degree with demonstrable interest and experience in applied zoo-research in the fields of applied animal behaviour and animal welfare science;
- An up-to-date knowledge of recent advances in animal welfare science and its applications;
- Expertise regarding research design, data collection and statistical analyses, with three to five years of (applied) research experience, preferably in a zoo setting;

- Demonstrable experience with applying for research funding;
- The ability to communicate with fellow scientists, and experience with the publication of research results in peer reviewed journals;
- A good working knowledge of English and preferably a basic knowledge of Dutch and French (or the willingness and commitment to learn within a time period to be agreed);
- A talent to mentor interns, students, research assistants, and to be an enthusiastic teacher and educator;
- The ability to work independently though in close collaboration with fellow researchers both within the CRC and externally;
- An interest in and enthusiasm for popular science writing, as well as to present research results to a non-science audience.

The successful candidate will have a full-time fixed-term RZSA contract for one year initially, with the possibility of an extension.

Review of applications will begin on 15 October 2017 and will continue until the position is filled. Candidates should apply by sending a full CV, a publication list and a cover letter, explaining why they are interested in this position, what particular skills they will bring, and why they are interested in zoo-related research.

Please send your application (preferably by email) to:

Tim De Backer
Human Resources
Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp
Tim.debacker@kmda.org
Koningin Astridplein 26
2018 Antwerp, Belgium

For more detailed information about this job please contact Zjef Pereboom by e-mail (zjef.pereboom@kmda.org) or by telephone (+32(0)3 202 4580).

Visit www.zooresearch.be for more information about the CRC's activities.