Volunteer Raptor Keeper

**About The Raptor Centre:**

The Raptor Centre was founded in 1977 and is unique in its way of operating. Up until 2019 The Centre was run by my husband and myself. In 2020 Eddie passed away following a short battle with cancer, I am now looking for extra help to take care of the team of Birds.

**What will you be doing?**

We are looking for enthusiastic bird lovers that can help us to host our brand new Bird of Prey centre.

You will be spending most of your day engaging with guests, answering their questions and assisting Ronnie in keeping a high standard of care for the birds, including cleaning and husbandry.

The cleaning of the aviaries, their travelling boxes, food fridges and freezers are not always the most enjoyable tasks, but they are a priority, for keeping the birds environments healthy, and subsequently, the birds themselves healthy.

**Who are we looking for?**

* Over 17 years of age.
* Friendly, polite and confident people, who are comfortable speaking to guests and being part of a team.
* We don’t expect you to be a Bird of Prey expert but an interest and knowledge of them and zoos would be advantageous.
* You should be willing to learn and keep up to date with the changes at The Raptor Centre and Hobbledown alike.
* You should also be willing to learn the answers to the most frequently asked questions, and learn basic knowledge about the individual birds housed at The Centre, you will be provided with this information, but we ask that you do your best to learn it so that you can answer questions without having to refer to your notes.
* Happy to be outside in all weather conditions.
* A good level of physical fitness – working with animals means spending most of your day on your feet and some tasks require bending down and stamina.
* Reliable and regular. We ask that our volunteers are able to attend at least one regular day a week, 10 – 4pm. We are initially offering the placement for 1 month and then your placement will be reviewed, but ideally you will be willing to commit to at least 6 months.

**What’s in it for you?**

* Gain valuable animal husbandry experience to enhance your CV.
* Gain an insight and expand your knowledge into conservation, zoo husbandry and animal welfare.
* Spend some time away from your work or find a new hobby in caring for animals.
* Handle and fly some of the Birds housed at The Centre.

You will be given a full induction and will have continuous training to ensure you are confident in your role.

There is potentially also the opportunity to help out on Experience sessions once you’re confident working with the birds and the visitors.

If you are interested, please contact Ronnie on

itstimetofly@raptorcentre.co.uk

We’re also on Instagram, you can see what we’re getting up to on our page - @the.raptor.centre

