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**Research Associate - Wildlife Veterinarian**

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| **Job level** | **29 - PDRA** | **Reports to** | **Tony Sainsbury** |
| **Directorate** | Science | **Function** | **Institute of Zoology** |
| **Contract** | **Fixed term – Maternity Cover** | **Location** | **Regent’s Park** |

**Responsibility for resources**

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| **Direct line reports** | **N/A** | **Responsibility for other resources** | **Confidentiality, wildlife disease prevention, animal welfare, field kit, medications** |
| **Financial resources** | **N/A** |

**Our vision and mission**

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is an international conservation charity, driven by science, working to restore wildlife in the UK and around the world. Our vision is a world where wildlife thrives and every role, every person in every corner of ZSL has one thing in common – we are all conservationists, and passionate about restoring wildlife.

**Purpose of the role**

To carry out health surveillance and mitigate disease threats for Natural England’s Species Recovery Programme in the Disease Risk Analysis and Health Surveillance (DRAHS) team. For rare, and sympatric species, when necessary, to investigate the impact of an intervention, such as a conservation translocation, on the health of populations through disease risk analysis and post-release health surveillance and report, present and publish the findings. Endangered, native species for which these investigations have previously been provided include chequered skipper, pool frog, sand lizard, hen harrier, red kite and hazel dormouse.

**Key responsibilities**

1. To assess the threats from disease in conservation translocations, through applying disease risk analysis including mitigation protocols.
2. To receive reports of sick and dead free-living wild animals to the DRAHS project and to organise the submission of carcases for post-mortem examination.
3. To carry out health examinations on wild animals and advise on procedures where necessary.
4. To carry out pathological investigation, select and arrange follow-up diagnostic tests as may be required and interpret the test results in order to reach a diagnosis of disease.
5. To communicate with partners and collaborators, including arranging meetings, and representing DRAHS.
6. To ensure findings are reported back to collaborators in a timely manner.
7. To maintain, develop and analyse databases of findings and to prepare and write reports on each piece of work carried out under this programme i.e. to collate results for each sub-project or for each species population examined and send out reports to collaborators and funding bodies in a timely manner.
8. To help organise, attend and contribute to bi-annual project meetings.
9. To plan, organize and undertake research on disease risk analysis, post-release health surveillance and the diseases of captive and free-living wild animals, produce peer-reviewed primary data research publications and present these at scientific conferences.
10. To plan and lead practical teaching sessions on the pathological examination of wildlife for the Masters’ of Science Courses in Wild Animal Health and Wild Animal Biology and for undergraduate students in zoological and veterinary medicine. To lead the DRAHS team during these practical sessions.
11. To supervise undergraduate and post-graduate research projects involving DRAHS work.
12. Contribute to the marking of coursework and examinations of ZSL Masters’ students.
13. To take opportunities for public outreach, both in person (e.g. by giving talks) and by producing written output.
14. To lead day-to-day project management, organising field trips, on-the-job training and supervision of technical staff, students and interns.
15. To assist with any other tasks as may be required.
16. In undertaking these duties, she/he will be responsible for ensuring the safety of all personnel involved.

The post is based at Regent's Park and will involve some field work requiring unsocial and flexible hours with occasional overnight stays. Training in pathology and field techniques will be given. The duties and responsibilities described are not a comprehensive list and additional tasks may be assigned from time to time that are in line with the level of the role.

**Person Specification**

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| Experience |

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| Essential | * A veterinary qualification * Experience in the veterinary care of captive and/or free-living wild animals * The post-holder must be a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons |
| Desirable | * A postgraduate qualification in wild animal health * Experience with Disease Risk Analysis * Experience with pathological examination of wild animals * Experience in teaching |

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| Knowledge and skills |

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| Essential | * Advanced skills in using MS office packages, specifically Excel and PowerPoint or equivalent software packages will be acceptable. * Familiarity with managing competing priorities and delegate effectively. * Excellent scientific writing skills. * Ability to communicate effectively with stakeholders to disseminate ZSL and DRAHS missions. * An enthusiasm for wild animal health and conservation. * A keen willingness to learn and expand skills in disease risk analysis and wild animal health. |
| Desirable | * + Able to demonstrate high accuracy and attention to detail with reference to written communications. * Previous publication within a peer-reviewed journal. * Experience in running training workshops. * Experience in managing and utilising pathology archives for diagnosis of disease. |

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| Additional requirements |

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| Essential | * + This post requires frequent travel within the UK, and occasionally overseas,to undertake fieldwork, particularly during the summer. * This post occasionally requires anti-social working hours such as evenings or weekends. * A full driving license is required for this role. * Strong commitment to creating a culture that lives ZSL values and commitment to safeguarding, equality and diversity (collaborative, inspiring, inclusive, innovative, impactful and ethical) * To comply with and promote Health and Safety policies and procedures |