

Clinical Animal Behaviourist Job Description

Job Title: Clinical Animal Behaviourist

Department: Animal Care

Responsible to: Operations Manager

Centre: Church Knowle Rehoming & Visitor Centre, Wareham BH20 5NQ / Working from home



About the Role

Established almost 60 years ago, Margaret Green Animal Rescue (MGAR) rescues and rehomes a diverse number of animals each year from its three centres (2 located in Dorset and 1 in Devon), including 250 cats and 350 dogs, as well as equines, field animals and small companion animals.

As part of our vision to help more animals and people over the next 10 years, we want to provide extensive knowledge, skills, and experience, both internally and to the communities into which we rehome our animals.

Dogs and cats will be the main focus for this role, but input with other species, when appropriate, will also be relevant to increase our behaviour expertise across the charity. You will raise the bar even higher alongside our skilled Animal Rescue Carers (ARCs), in providing support through in-house training, evaluation and thought leadership.

This is an exciting time for MGAR, as we seek to increase our reach and impact throughout Dorset and Devon. This role will be pivotal and enable a suitably qualified and ambitious Animal Behaviourist to make a real difference to the way we care for animals, both in our centres and our wider communities.

This new role will suit someone who is confident in their abilities and thrives on improving the human-animal bond, and wants to shout loudly & proudly about it!



Main Purpose

- Support colleagues in all three centres with behaviour assessments for dogs and cats, particularly where concerns have been raised, considering safe practices for risk mitigation and promotion of best practice.
- Create plans for both training and behaviour modification, using evidence based, positive methodologies that are practical and mitigate risk.
- Ensure continuous professional development is met by exploring contemporary knowledge via networking and collaboration with relevant organisations, both within and outside of the charity sector, and provide thought leadership in promoting new opportunities and methodology throughout the charity.
- Regularly assess and review current working practices within the animal care department and make recommendations for improvement.

- Represent the charity as a passionate and informed expert, working with the Operations and Fundraising/Communications Managers at internal and external events, with the media, and all relevant external channels.
- Play a leading role in formulation of education initiatives, both at our rescue centres and through our network of charity retail shops.
- Work with the Leadership team to produce an Education Strategy that promotes responsible pet ownership, position statements and wider community projects.
- Adhere to data protection regulations and comply with the Charity's policies, staff handbook and H&S requirements.

Person Specification



Essential

- Full UK driving licence.
- Level 6 graduate qualification (Diploma / Masters / Doctorate NVQ level 6), or higher, in Companion Animal Behaviour, Welfare and Behaviour Modification, or Companion Animal Behaviour Counselling.
- Animal Behaviour and Training Council (ABTC) accredited Clinical Animal Behaviourist (CAB), or working towards accreditation.
- Extensive experience of working in the field of dog behaviour rehabilitation and welfare.
- Demonstrable experience of carrying out behavioural assessments of pets.
- Experience of modifying companion animal behaviour in a variety of settings.
- Clear experience of welfare-focused animal handling in a clinical setting.
- Competent in the use of computer systems and databases.
- Able to confidently represent the charity as a spokesperson in media appearances, in all forms and outlets.
- Excellent organisational and time management skills.
- Excellent communication skills, both in writing and verbally.
- Ability to prioritise own workload and manage time efficiently.
- Alignment with MGAR mission, vision, and values.
- Emotional resilience and non-judgemental attitude towards colleagues and supporters & rehoming / potential rehoming.



Desirable

- Experience of working on behavioural modification techniques with cats, equines, small animals and farm animals.
- Experience of work within a rescue environment.
- Awareness of the usage of psychoactive medications in the care of companion animals.
- Experience in coaching and supporting animal care employees.
- Public-speaking trained.
- Formal training qualification or experience.
- Passionate about enhancing the lives of all animals and their human guardians.

Overview



As Clinical Animal Behaviourist, you would report to the Operations Manager within the Animal Care Department, based at MGAR HQ, which is located in the village of Church Knowle, Dorset.

This is a full-time, hybrid role, with home-working available and weekend availability required, at 37.5 hours per week.

Salary

£30,000 – £35,000, depending on experience.

Benefits

- Uniform provided
- Company pension
- Employee discount – charity shops, pet insurance and dog/cat boarding
- Employee Assistance Programme wellbeing scheme
- Sick pay
- Hybrid home-working
- Mileage allowance at 45p per mile
- Free on-site parking at rehoming centres
- Training budget

