

Job Advertisement

Lead Ranger – Primates

Fota Wildlife Park, Co. Cork, Ireland

Closing date: Friday 19th June 2026

Fota Wildlife Park is one of Ireland's leading wildlife conservation organisations — a not-for-profit institution set across one hundred acres on Fota Island, Co. Cork, welcoming 430,000 visitors each year and contributing to national and international species breeding and recovery programmes.

With a €5.5 million Education, Conservation and Research Centre now open and an ambitious strategic plan underway, this is one of the most significant periods in the Park's history. We are now looking for an experienced Lead Ranger to take charge of our primate collection at this exciting time.

The Opportunity

This is a senior animal care role with responsibility for the day-to-day management and welfare of Fota's primate collection. Reporting to the Animal Care Manager and leading a team of Senior Rangers and Rangers, you will set the standard for primate husbandry at the Park and contribute to the broader animal care, conservation and education programmes.

We are looking for someone who brings genuine primate expertise, proven leadership, and a deep commitment to conservation, someone ready to make their mark in a dynamic, mission-driven organisation.

What You'll Do

- Lead and develop a team of animal care staff, maintaining high standards of welfare and husbandry across the primate section.
- Work closely with veterinary staff on all aspects of animal health, preventative medicine, and species management.
- Drive the operant conditioning and enrichment programmes, developing trained behaviours to an advanced level.
- Develop and review SOPs and Safe Working Practices in line with best practice and zoo licensing requirements.
- Contribute to zoo-based research, conservation education, and species and exhibit planning.
- Represent Fota Wildlife Park with appropriate professional bodies including BIAZA and EAZA.
- Assume Duty Lead Ranger responsibilities on a rota basis.

Who We're Looking For

- Minimum eight to ten years of zoological animal management experience, with significant hands-on primate experience in a zoo setting.
- DMZAA or equivalent qualification achieved or in the advanced stages of completion.
- Proven ability to lead and develop an experienced animal care team.
- Strong knowledge of modern zoo practice, animal welfare legislation, and zoo licensing standards.

- Competent in animal handling and restraint, including potentially dangerous species.
- Proficient in ZIMS, ZIMS Medical, and MS Office.
- Holds a valid Irish Class B or equivalent driver's licence.
- Flexible to work weekends and some public holidays as part of a rota.
- A BSc in an animal-related subject and knowledge of EAZA EEPs and BIAZA breeding programmes are desirable.

The responsibilities listed above are not exhaustive and may be subject to change. Additional duties may be assigned as required to meet the evolving needs of the organisation.

For a full job description please email recruitment@fotawildlife.ie

How to Apply

Please apply online via our website: www.fotawildlife.ie/pages/jobs

The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 19th June 2026.

Fota Wildlife Park is an equal opportunities employer committed to building a diverse and inclusive team.