



NATURAL
Animal
CENTRE

knowledge

action

compassion

becomingaworkingstudent



The Natural Animal Centre
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The Natural Animal Centre is owned by animal trainers and behaviourists Ross and Heather Simpson. It is a living working model of practical compromises for domesticated animals and their owners, allowing the animals to live and be cared for as naturally as possible.

Our mission statement:

*positively influencing the well-being
of animals worldwide*



Compassionate understanding of animals is always our main goal and we help people develop this awareness through gaining a sound base of scientific knowledge which creates opportunities for positive choices to be made regarding actions to be taken with their animals

Our goal is to create an "Animal Behaviour University" where education in many species is provided, based on a strong scientific foundation.

About the courses run at the Natural Animal Centre

From the Centre here in Carmarthen we run a range of courses including

The Equine Behaviour Qualification (EBQ) – *With its primary objective to raise the standard of equine behaviourists in the market place, the EBQ is based on up to date scientific knowledge giving the student the tools to go into the market place as an equine behaviourist.*

The Canine Behaviour Qualification (CBQ) – *Following the EBQ, the CBQ was launched with the same objectives, designed to develop understanding of animal motivation, how they learn and physiology and provide the student with practical application to modify behaviour problems in dogs.*

The Feline Behaviour Qualification (FBQ) – *As Britain's most popular pet the cat's behaviour is possibly the most misunderstood. Although well researched many pet owners don't have access to the latest scientific research. The FBQ is designed to bridge that gap giving students the ability to modify unwanted cat behaviours.*

*How would it feel to be practically implementing the science of
animal behaviour every day?*

becoming a working student



Essentially, working students work in exchange for formal and informal education in animal behaviour. Formal education includes attendance on one of the above courses and attendance of continued professional development weekend (CPD) held once a year. Your newly acquired knowledge will then be supported and built upon by implementing and working with the concepts taught on the courses with the animals here at the centre. Accommodation is provided in our staff house in Carmarthen.

What does becoming a working student involve?

As a working student, duties include the day-to-day tasks involved in maintaining our main centre, at Penhill (NAC 1) and our second centre and accommodation for students, 20 minutes from Penhill (NAC 2).

These tasks include:

Large animal care

The general care of our herd of 8 horses, including feeding, grooming, minor first aid and assisting in visits from the farrier, working with our on site vet etc.

The care of our sheep and pigs, including feeding, minor first aid and assisting in environmental enrichment and training programs.

Small animal care

The care of our small animals, such as guinea pigs, rabbits, and tortoises, includes feeding, daily cleaning, minor first aid and assisting in environmental enrichment and training programs.

Fish care

The care of our tropical freshwater and pond fish including; feeding, cleaning and water changes.

Preparation for courses and visitors

Preparation of lecture theatre, NAC 2, hydro-pool and consultation rooms for courses, or behaviour consultations. Stock lists and shopping for courses.

Yard Presentation

Keeping fields, barns, tracks and school free from animal droppings, grass cutting, and ensuring Centres look presentable.

Yard maintenance

Monitoring of stock levels, vehicle maintenance and cleaning, painting and other maintenance, implementing environmental enrichment ideas.



Assisting our Centre vet with horse care



Enriching our pond to increase waterbird nesting opportunities

whatnext?

With diligent study and experience in practical application of animal behaviour theory, you will be in a good position to:

- *move towards becoming a professional animal behaviourist dealing with problem animals (your readiness to start consulting professionally will depend on whether you have completed the EBQ, CBQ or FBQ in full).*
- *approach zoos, marine parks (in the USA) and other animal keepers for further study as an animal trainer.*
- *apply to work at one of the large rescue centres in the country as an animal behaviourist and/or trainer.*



Students training two of our horses through play



A working student bathing one of the pigs

More information

For more information on becoming a working student at the Natural Animal Centre or for a prospectus on the above courses, contact the office:

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If sending an application for a working student position please attach a CV