

Dear Candidates,

As part of the selection process for the position of trainee in Zagreb ZOO, we have prepared a series of tasks based on situations and activities commonly encountered in the daily work of ZOO staff.

The purpose of these tasks is not to assess theoretical knowledge alone, but rather to evaluate your way of thinking, observation skills, communication abilities, potential for professional development, and motivation to work with animals.

The tasks cover three key areas of a zookeeper's work:

- Animal care, including behavioural observation and welfare assessment.
- Communication with visitors and the ability to explain professional information in an accessible manner.
- Participation in public education and the promotion of the zoological garden's activities.

Please provide clear and concise answers, drawing on your knowledge, experience, and problem-solving approach.

We wish you success in completing the tasks.

Ivana Kovarik Antonović, mag. oecol. et prot. nat.

Erasmus+ coordinator / Zoologist

mob +385 91 2302249

e-mail: ivana.kovarik@zoo.hr

Task 1 – Monitoring Animal Behaviour and Responding to Behavioural Changes

Scenario

While observing a group of meerkats (*Suricata suricatta*), you notice that one individual has been separating itself from the rest of the group for the past two days. While the other animals display normal behaviour, this individual remains in the indoor enclosure or stays apart from the group when outside.

Please answer the following questions:

1. What information would you gather before drawing any conclusions?
2. Which changes in the animal's behaviour or physical appearance would you monitor most closely?
3. To whom would you report your observations and why?
4. Propose a method for monitoring the animal's condition over the following seven days.
5. Design one or more environmental enrichment activities for this individual and explain their purpose.

Task 2 – Communication with Visitors

Scenario

A visitor approaches you and says:

"I've walked past the leopard enclosure several times, and it's always lying in the same spot. It looks sad and bored."

Please write the response you would give as if you were standing in front of the enclosure and speaking directly with the visitor.

Task 3 – Social Media Communication

Based on the scenario described in Task 1, prepare a draft social media post for Facebook or Instagram.

Your post should:

- Be concise (maximum 150 words).
- Be suitable for a general audience.
- Encourage learning or reflection on animal welfare.