



Digital credentials can be downloaded and shared to help individuals reach potential employers and celebrate their success widely.

Volunteer zookeepers and aquarists now have the opportunity to gain a dedicated award from Sparsholt College and City & Guilds. The established 'Volunteer Programme', has now been awarded prestigious City & Guilds recognition as a standalone achievement now known as the Level 3 Certificate in the Management of Zoo and Aquarium Animals for Volunteers (CMZAAV).

The hard work and dedication of volunteers in the industry has long been recognised and the Volunteer Programme allowed these valued community members to begin formal training towards achieving the respected Diploma in the Management of Zoo and Aquaria Animals (DMZAA) run by Sparsholt College and BIAZA.

Penny Hounsome, Curriculum Leader for Zoo Animal Studies at Sparsholt College, said:

“The opportunity for volunteers to train and gain this established award is really important to us. I am really pleased that a route for dedicated student keepers, giving their own time freely to a collection, has been awarded this recognition by the awarding body and that we can continue to support learners making their way into our fabulous industry.”

The very first candidate, Toby Reeve of Colchester Zoo, claimed his well-earned CMZAAV credential in January 2021, he said:

“I am proud and honoured to be the very first candidate of the new CMZAAV credential, and feel so lucky that volunteers are now able to have this route into the industry.”

He went on to say, “I would recommend this course to any volunteers thinking of taking that next step in their animal career. Here’s to a very exciting future!”

Learners achieving this award will receive a digital credential from City & Guilds, which can be downloaded and shared to help them reach potential employers and celebrate their success widely. To find out more about digital credentials please visit the City & Guilds digital credentials page.