

# CASE STUDY

## Madeline Cottrell

### Level 2 Apprenticeship in Animal Care and Welfare

Since leaving school at the age of 16, Maddy knew she wanted to work with animals, but wasn't sure in which area. Fast forward a few years, and she is currently studying for a Level 2 Diploma in Animal Care and Welfare through Activate Enterprise and Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA) while working for Forest House Veterinary Group.

Since starting her apprenticeship with BCA, Maddy has worked with many different animals. This has given her a broad range of experience, helping her gain a much better idea of what she might like to do further into her career. Added to that is the invaluable range of other skills gained in the workplace, which have boosted her CV and employability for the future.

Maddy attends BCA one day a week, where she works on animal based units in the morning and the animal unit in the afternoon, where she has the opportunity of working with animals not usually associated with her current role (livestock, exotic house, small mammals and zoo and British wildlife). As part of her apprenticeship, she is assigned an assessor, who is responsible for assessing her competence while at the workplace.

She says: **“Since starting at BCA I have been able to gain valuable skills and experience from working on each section of the animal unit and have gained lots of knowledge from the animal centre’s experienced staff. I have been able to work with animals I would not see at my place**

**of employment, such as livestock animals, reptiles and zoo animals. I particularly enjoy working with BCA’s reptiles, as they have a vast range of exotic animals from starter corn snakes to critically endangered Madagascan ground boas. I have also been able to work with a variety of livestock animals and have been lucky enough to help with lambing duties”.**

Maddy decided on BCA as her apprenticeship provider due to the wide range of animals, the facilities at the college and its solid reputation for land-based qualifications.

She said: **“My qualification and time at BCA has made me even more adamant to work in the animal industry. I am now near to finishing my apprenticeship and have started to look at where and what I can do next. I am considering whether to go into the animal retail industry and in the future open my own pet shop, or whether to continue in the veterinary industry and start a veterinary nursing apprenticeship”**

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