

## ZOOKEEPER

**DEFINITION:** Under general supervision, performs work of moderate difficulty involving the safety, health, handling, care of animals, preparation and feeding animals following strict schedules and diet requirements; provides assistance to zoo renovation and improvement projects, facilities maintenance and landscaping; performs related work as assigned.

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:** This list is ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY and is not a comprehensive listing of all functions and tasks performed by incumbents of this class.

### **TASKS:**

Responsible for cleaning, feeding and general husbandry of captive animals; provides daily food and water; prepares food following strict feeding schedules and diet requirements as directed by zoologist; animal diets are followed by measuring, weighing or estimating various types of food including frozen meat, grains, pellets, seeds, fruit and vegetables; assists veterinarian with routine animal care; administers antibiotic treatments and bandages for injured animals; observes behavior of each animal to detect any changes which may indicate injury or illness; reports and logs observation of sick and/or injured animals; adheres to applicable health and safety policies and procedures.

Constructs, renovates and repairs zoo buildings, animal exhibits and grounds; inspects and provides maintenance of water line; builds and maintains structures within animal enclosures, small bridges, culverts, trails, large pens, shelters, fences and picnic areas as needed; provides a clean and safe environment for the animals and visitors; erects and installs signs; provides general maintenance and upkeep of zoo office, building and exhibits; responsible for trails management and landscaping; researches and purchases materials for construction and renovation projects; works with vendors for material selection and purchase; performs janitorial duties.

Assists veterinarian with capture and restraint of injured animals; assists with disposal and disbursement of stray animals; responsible for cleaning enclosures for zoo animals; provides tours for school groups and other visitors which include a personal and educational experience at the zoo; assists in explaining the relationship of animals in the Navajo tradition; answers questions of visitors; may supervise volunteers/student workers when needed.

### **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS:**

Knowledge of applicable Navajo Nation, federal, state and local laws governing animal care and control.  
Knowledge of principles and procedures dealing with general animal husbandry.  
Knowledge of animal behaviors regarding handling, feeding, social interaction patterns and animal health.  
Knowledge of basic carpentry, welding, plumbing, landscaping and janitorial methods and practices.  
Knowledge of use and maintenance of Bobcat, forklift, and backhoe for small-scale construction.  
Knowledge of maintenance and safe use of small power and hand tools.  
Knowledge of firearms and tranquilizer guns to disperse/incapacitate large animals.  
Knowledge of animal diet and animal restraint.  
Knowledge of animal biology.  
Knowledge of record keeping procedures.  
Skill in proper handling, restraint and interacting with all types of wildlife.  
Skill in performing basic carpentry and maintenance assignments.  
Skill in safely utilizing power tools and equipment.  
Skill in providing instruction to volunteers/student workers.  
Skill in establishing and maintaining effective working relationships.

**ZOOKEEPER**

Ability to learn and follow standard operating procedures for the care and handling of animals.  
Ability to follow oral and written instructions.

**PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT:** Work requires walking, bending, kneeling, climbing, digging, lifting, unloading materials/supplies up to 100 lbs., in an outdoor environment. Exposure to dust, pollen and water elements, various weather conditions and disease due to contact with animals; subject to safety hazards associated with caring for domestic and native animals such as injuries resulting from bites or other physical contact.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

- A high school diploma or GED; and two (2) years of work experience in animal care and/or maintenance and building trades.

**PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Three (3) years of experience in animal care, veterinary or animal husbandry.
- Three (3) years of building or construction trades work experience, including: electrical, welding, plumbing, carpentry or masonry.
- Training in construction trades (i.e., carpentry, electrical, welding, plumbing, etc.).

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

- Possess a valid state driver's license.

**Supplemental Requirements:**

Incumbent must obtain a Navajo Nation Vehicle Operator's Permit within 90 days of date of hire.

Depending upon the needs of the Nation, some incumbents of the class may be required to demonstrate fluency in both the Navajo and English languages as a condition of employment.