

SENIOR ZOOKEEPER

DEFINITION: Under general supervision, performs work of moderate difficulty in supervising the handling and care of animals, preparation of food and feeding animals following strict schedules and diet requirements; in coordination with supervisor oversees the general health, diets and veterinary treatments of zoo animals; provides assistance in exhibit design and construction projects to ensure animal health and safety; 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:

Oversees the daily feeding and cleaning enclosures for zoo animals; ensures strict feeding schedules and diet needs are followed; animal diets are followed by measuring, weighing or estimating various types of food including frozen meat, grains, pellets, seeds, fruit and vegetables; supervises the completion of daily animal enclosure cleanings; supervises the completion of daily records of animal care activities, animal health and needs; supervises observations of animal behavior to detect any changes which may indicate injury or illness; supervises medical treatment for injured/sick animals; assists veterinarian with routine animal care visits; assists in the capture and restraint of animals for examination and treatment purposes;

Provides supervision for and performs animal enrichment activities; assists zoologist in maintaining stock of animal food and ordering food when necessary; reports and logs observation of sick and/or injured animals; supervises and performs animal care for acquisition of injured and orphaned wildlife; supervises and ensures that applicable health and safety policies and procedures are followed by all staff when working with animals.

Provides assistance with the design and construction, renovation and repair of zoo buildings, grounds and animal exhibits; ensures animal health and safety in design, and during construction; assists supervisor with project development regarding animal enclosures and animal needs, and preparing materials list and making recommendations on care and shelter of animals;

Supervises the general maintenance of zoo office, buildings and exhibits; supervises and maintains a clean, safe and pleasing environment for the zoo animals, visitors and staff; assists zoologist with the supervision of tours for school groups and other visitors; supervises work activities of assigned staff; trains and conducts performance evaluations; supervises the disposal and disbursement of stray animals; may perform patrol duties; attends in-service training and staff meetings.

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 firearms and tranquilizer guns to disperse/incapacitate large animals.
Knowledge of animal diet and animal restraints.
Knowledge of animal biology.
Knowledge of animal needs for enclosure design.
Knowledge of occupational safety and health regulations, practices and procedures.
Knowledge of USDA requirements for maintaining live wild animals in captivity.
Knowledge of supervisory and management skills.
Skill in assessing areas and determining maintenance needs and problem areas.

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Skill in carpentry, plumbing, electrical and landscaping work.
Skill in safely operating hand and power tools.
Skill in preparing written reports and evaluations.
Skill in providing training and assistance to subordinates.
Skill in the use and safety of firearms and tranquilizer guns.
Skill in oral and written communication.
Skill in establishing and maintaining effective working relationships.
Ability to explain the relation to animals in the Navajo tradition.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT: Work requires walking, kneeling, climbing, digging, bending, lifting and unloading materials and supplies weighing up to 100 lbs. Work is typically done in an outdoor setting with exposure to 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 three (3) years of work experience in animal care, park maintenance and/or maintenance construction trades, one (1) year of which must have been in a supervisory or lead capacity;

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Four (4) years of experience in animal care or veterinary services work experience.
- Four (4) years of building or construction trades, including electrical, welding, plumbing and carpentry work experience.
- Training in animal care or skilled trades (i.e., carpentry, 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.