

City of San José

ZOO KEEPER (FT) (6353)**ZOO KEEPER (PT) (6354)**CLASS PURPOSE

Under immediate supervision, performs work involving the care of zoo animals and maintenance of cages, enclosures, grounds, and service areas. Performs related work as required.

TYPICAL DUTIES AND RESULTS (Any one position may not include all the duties listed, nor do the examples cover all the duties which may be performed.)

- Prepares diets for the animal collection; cleans animal displays and holding and service areas;
- Assists in training animals for basic husbandry and enrichment behaviors.
- Works with animal collection in preparation for presentations, and capture and restraint of animals.
- Records and reports any unusual condition regarding the animals' health to supervisor.
- Reports any maintenance issues and potential safety hazards to supervisor.
- Assists in constructing and maintaining animal displays and habitats.
- Assists animal health staff with animal handling, capture, restraint, and medication administration.
- Assists with maintenance chores, movement of animals, and loading and unloading of supplies, feeds, and other goods.
- Euthenize specified feed animals for consumption by meat eating animals.
- Responds to general questions from the public regarding the zoo animals.
- May provide support to the South Bay Zoological Society, zoo education, and volunteer programs.
- May handle cash as needed or assigned using adopted City procedures.
- Works weekends, evenings, and holidays during all climatic conditions as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This class is the second level of three in the Zoo Keeper series. It differs from the next lower class of Zoo Keeper Aide in that incumbents of the latter class perform the more routine tasks in the care of zoo animals. It differs from the next higher class of Senior Zoo Keeper in that incumbents of the latter class lead and train this class and are responsible for coordination of animal care activities.

QUALIFICATIONSMinimum Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Knowledge of the care, feeding, and handling of zoo and domestic animals.
- Knowledge of zoo safety rules and regulations.

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- Knowledge of normal animal behavior.
- Skill in the handling and restraint of zoo and domestic animals.
- Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions including routine procedures for care and maintenance of animals, grounds, displays, and habitats.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers and the public.
- Ability to enter animal areas and perform physical work (including lifting objects up to 50 lbs.)
- Ability to work weekends, evenings, and holidays, during all climactic conditions.

Competency Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Knowledge of animal training theory and applications.
- Knowledge of routine plant and equipment care.
- Ability to prepare animal diets.
- Ability to fill out logs and forms regarding the status of the animals.
- Ability to recognize and report abnormal behavior, attitude, or appearance of zoo animals.
- Ability to perform simple monetary transactions such as making correct change, and keep routine records.
- Skill in handling and restraining exotic zoo animals.

Education

Completion of high school, General Educational Development (G.E.D.) Certificate, or California Proficiency Certificate.

Experiences

One (1) year experience in the care of non-domestic animals.

Acceptable Substitutions

College coursework in zoology, biology or related field can substitute for the required experience on a year-for-year basis.

Licenses/Certificates

Possession of a valid State of California driver's license may be required.

(New 6/98)

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