

Dallas Zoo Management Careers

Assistant Zoological Manager - Hoofstock

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Animal Care & Conservation • Dallas, Texas

Description

JOB SUMMARY

This role works closely with the area Zoological Manager to lead a team of Zoologists, covering daily routines as assigned, and providing exceptional care to the species housed in a given section. The Assistant Zoological Manager assists in the daily operation of the department, management of animal husbandry programs, and maintenance of associated facilities. The Assistant Zoological Manager will serve as the primary contact and liaison for their assigned section in the absence of the Zoological Manager, and provide support to animal care staff.

SPECIFIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assist in organizing and coordinating assigned section's daily activities, overseeing animal care staff in all areas, and delegating tasks per leadership team's direction;
- Lead by example: maintain familiarity with all aspects of husbandry routines, assisting if needed;
- Assist in the hiring of, then train, animal care staff in all aspects of husbandry: diet preparation, feeding, cleaning and maintenance of exhibits;
- Assist in the implementation of protocols and operating procedures to maintain high level of sanitation, animal care, and safety;
- Observe and monitor animals regularly for health and behavioral issues;
- Assist with veterinary treatments and procedures, reporting relevant animal health situations to veterinarians and curator;
- Oversee animal propagation, sharing expertise with staff, ensuring that facilities and staff are well prepared prior to relevant breeding events;
- Coordinate safe animal capture and restraint, as well as transfer within the zoo, in compliance with professional industry standards;
- Coordinate, perform, and train staff for safe handling, restraint, translocation of animals within assigned work section potentially including dangerous and/or venomous species;
- Communicate thoroughly and efficiently and ensure accuracy of records in all areas of responsibility;
- Actively manage, and participate in, operant conditioning and environmental enrichment programs for animals within the section;
- Ensure exhibits meet high standards of animal welfare and aesthetics: prioritize exhibit enhancement projects, participate in renovations, and demonstrate effective exhibit maintenance strategies;
- Follow all safety protocols, understanding the Assistant Zoological Manager's role in emergency procedures, and serving as a member of Dallas Zoo's Emergency Response Team;
- Perform other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

- A Bachelor's degree in biology, animal science, or a related field is preferred, but not required;

- Must have knowledge of animal husbandry, with at least seven years preferred of exotic animal care experience at an AZA-accredited facility (ideally with Hoofstock)
- Must be solution-oriented, finding creative solutions for complex challenges;
- Demonstrated interest and expertise in management, reproduction of diverse species;
- Comprehensive knowledge of reproduction, as well as neonate care preferred;
- Comprehensive knowledge of behavioral management, including operant conditioning philosophy, techniques and terminology, as well as benefits and goals of environmental enrichment;
- Ability to remain aware and alert while working around potentially dangerous animals at all times;
- Incumbent should have broad interests in research, behavior and conservation;
- Excellent facilitation, as well as communication skills, both oral and written;
- Comfort with computer software: MS Word, Excel, Outlook, Power Point;
- Ability to represent the Zoo in a professional manner at all times;
- Ability to exercise sound judgment in emergency situations and to respond with appropriate action;
- Ability to work with minimal supervision, must be self-directed;
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationship with management, other employees & zoo guests;
- Must be able to walk, stand, sit, kneel, stoop, crawl, twist, reach above head, pull bend, climb stairs and ladders and carry up to 50 lbs;
- Must be able to work holidays and weekends;
- Must be able to actively work outdoors in hot or inclement weather;
- Successful candidates must pass pre-employment drug screening, background check and TB test;
- Must have a valid driver's license to operate zoo vehicles and reliable transportation.

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work performed by personnel assigned to this job and is not necessarily an exhaustive list of all duties to be assigned.

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