



## Veterinary Technician

**Our Mission:** Houston Zoo connects communities with animals, inspiring action to save wildlife.

**Our Vision:** Houston Zoo will be a leader in the global movement to save wildlife.

The Houston Zoo is seeking well-qualified candidates for the position of Veterinary Technician to provide a variety of semi-technical and technical animal health tasks encompassing animal management, diagnostic radiology, laboratory and surgical procedures, and therapy/treatment techniques for a diverse collection of more than 850 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates. Competitive candidates will possess strong technical skills, and proven ability to handle multiple tasks simultaneously. Preferred candidates will have substantial experience in the veterinary tech atmosphere with taxonomic group of exotic animals as well as excellent communication, interpersonal, and teamwork skills. This position does not directly supervise staff and reports to the Veterinary Technician Supervisor.

### Job Duties and Responsibilities

- Assisting veterinarians with routine, diagnostic, and emergency procedures, including, but not limited to surgery, digital radiology, ultrasonography, dental prophylaxis and radiology, anesthesia induction, monitoring and recovery, medication administration, IV catheter placement, and record keeping.
- Performing routine pharmacy related skills including medical calculations involving dilutions and dosages, compounding medications, prescription dispensing and medication administration, when needed.
- Participates in gross necropsies and sample preparation as needed.
- Triage native wildlife cases as directed by a veterinarian.
- Preparing specimens and performing diagnostic laboratory tests at the Houston Zoo in-house laboratory, including, but not limited to fecal analysis, hematology, serum chemistry, urinalysis, and cytology. Preparing specimens for shipment to reference laboratories.
- Maintaining animal anesthesia and health records during procedures.
- Performing routine equipment maintenance to assure proper function and quality results.
- Maintain surgical suite and supplies including, but not limited to, instrument sterilization and preparation.
- Training veterinary technician interns/externs or other volunteers on procedures and protocols
- Participate in regular staff meetings.
- Ensure a safe work environment by following all safety guidelines and modeling safe work practices.
- Understand and apply a practical understanding of operant conditioning as it relates to veterinary procedures and partner with animal keepers to train medical husbandry behaviors.
- Exhibits good teamwork, collaboration and both verbal and written communication skills.
- Performs husbandry tasks such as cleaning, feeding, and/or maintenance as needed within the clinic.
- Performs other duties as requested/assigned.
- Contributes to saving animals in the wild through: reduction of waste, water and energy use and inspiring guests and staff to take wildlife protecting actions

Staff may be required to work weekends, holidays, some evenings, rotating schedules and beyond scheduled work hours. Staff may also provide crowd control if necessary during peak times.

### **EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE**

- Required: A two or four-year degree from an accredited program in animal technology and current status as a Licensed Veterinary Technician is required or ability to obtain Texas license within 6 months of employment.
- Required: Recent experience working in a veterinary clinic or hospital.
- Preferred: Two years of zoo experience in a veterinary clinic or hospital.
- Preferred: At least one year in a laboratory setting for diagnostic sample processing or research.
- May be required to safely operate a motor vehicle. Valid Texas driver's license or ability to obtain one within 60 days of employment.

### **PHYSICAL DEMANDS:**

- Ability to stand for long periods of time
- Considerable physical exertion, such as extensive walking, bending, stooping and regular climbing of ladders
- Exerting up to 80 pounds of force occasionally to lift, carry, pull, or otherwise move objects
- Ability to make coordinated gross motor movements in response to changing external stimuli within moderately demanding tolerances
- Ability to make coordinated eye/hand movements on a patterned response space within low tolerance demands with no real speed requirements

### **WORK ENVIRONMENT:**

- Outdoors and indoor environment with adequate ventilation
- Moderate to loud noise
- Exposure to significant levels of heat, cold, moisture and/or air pollution
- Exposure to potentially dangerous animals and zoonotic diseases, chemical substances and physical trauma of a minor nature such as cuts, bruises and minor burns

### **ABOUT HOUSTON ZOO'S VETERINARY PROGRAM**

In addition to managing clinical cases, the veterinary program maintains a strong focus on preventive medicine with a busy schedule of quarantine and routine health exams, diagnostic screening, and vaccinations. The veterinary staff also works closely with veterinary and human medical specialists when advanced diagnostics or therapies are needed for animal patients.

The Denton A. Cooley Animal Hospital at the Houston Zoo includes a full suite of diagnostic and treatment facilities, as well as advanced anesthetic monitoring, digital cordless radiography, in-house and portable ultrasound units, rigid and flexible endoscopy, and specialized laboratory equipment. In summer 2017, the staff will move into a brand new medical facility that includes expanded and updated space for the laboratory, large and small animal radiography, surgery, large and small animal treatment, necropsy, and office space.

The Houston Zoo supports staff in professional development such as conferences, workshops, and other learning opportunities. Members of the veterinary team are involved in a number of local and international *in situ* conservation programs, including the USFWS Recovery and Reintroduction Programs for the critically endangered Attwater's prairie chicken and Houston toad, sea turtle rehabilitation, and an ongoing elephant herpes virus research program with Baylor College of Medicine. The veterinary department regularly hosts senior students, summer veterinary interns, colleagues, and other visiting professionals. The veterinary team includes four other veterinarians (including 3 ACZM diplomates), five licensed veterinary technicians (including a veterinary technician supervisor), a hospital manager, four animal care staff (including an animal care staff supervisor), two pest control technicians, and two administrative staff.

### **ABOUT HOUSTON**

Houston is the fourth largest city in the US, and ranks first among the nation's most populous cities in total acreage of parkland, with many greenspaces, parks and bayous that allow for year-round hiking, biking and kayaking. Houston is home to a diverse culture as well as the world's largest medical complex, a vibrant museum and theatre district, the Johnson Space Center, and a continually growing technology industry. Houston is considered to have one of the best culinary scenes in the country, including vegan friendly restaurants, farm to table restaurants, and breweries. Forbes magazine ranks Houston first among US cities where paychecks stretch the furthest. Galveston Bay and the Gulf of Mexico are just 50 miles away, offering beach access and unparalleled opportunities for birding and other outdoor activities.

Join the Houston Zoo and become a part of an organization that is focused on the preservation of wildlife and their habitats by combining conservation with education and promotion of sustainable livelihoods in the local communities.

E-mail resume and completed application to [careers@houstonzoo.org](mailto:careers@houstonzoo.org)

*Houston Zoo is an Equal Opportunity Employer*