



Zookeeper, Children's Zoo

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.

Join an enthusiastic team that provides a fun, unique and inspirational experience fostering appreciation, knowledge, and care for the natural world. The Houston Zoo aspires to be recognized by peers, staff, and general public as a leader among conservation efforts, delivering excellence in animal care, entertainment, education, and guest service.

Description

Under the direction of a Children's Zoo Supervisor, the zookeeper role is responsible for supporting the day-to-day operations associated with the husbandry of the animals and the maintenance of animal exhibits within the Children's Zoo. The Children's Zoo is a multi-taxa department housing over 80 species of animals in several exhibits with a focus on creating a lifelong connection between people and animals.

Responsibilities

- Carries out all aspects of the daily care of assigned animals including cleaning, feeding, exhibit maintenance, general upkeep of support facilities.
- Maintains clean and organized exhibits, holding areas, service areas and equipment.
- Prepares and feeds appropriate diets as per established feeding practices and diet sheets.
- Administers prescribed medications, supplements, or treatments under the guidance of the veterinary and supervisory staff.
- Records and reports any abnormal animal health or behavioral issues to the Zoo Supervisor.
- Maintains daily reports, logs, training and enrichment records, research or veterinary records, as appropriate and according to established guidelines; requires basic skills with TRACKS and Microsoft Office software applications.
- Understands and applies a practical understanding of operant conditioning as it relates to the daily management of species under his/her care.
- Understands and applies the basic principles of animal enrichment as part of the daily management of species under his/her care.
- Maintains clean and organized exhibits, equipment, and keeper areas.
- As appropriate, maintains water quality through filtration, balance of chemical elements, and sanitation methods for aquatic or semi-aquatic animal species.
- As appropriate, maintains live exhibit plantings to enhance exhibit aesthetics; eliminates weeds and toxic plants from animal enclosures.
- In conjunction with the Zoo's pest control officer, may assist in pest control through the use of exclusion or traps.
- Identifies potential maintenance or safety issues and reports them to the Zoo Supervisor.
- Participates in keeper chats, tours, animal presentations or demonstrations, and/or other public interactions as requested by the Zoo Supervisor.
- May assist with departmental research projects, conservation, AZA, or other industry activities as directed/approved by the Zoo Supervisor or Curator; provides support for other Zoo projects as needed.
- May oversee work activities and/or provide training for interns, seasonal workers, or volunteers.
- Exhibits good teamwork and communication skills both within the home team and when working with other teams or departments.

- May be required to safely operate a motor vehicle.
- Other duties as assigned.

Knowledge and Experience

- Two-year or four-year degree in one of the natural sciences or a closely related discipline or a certificate of completion from an acceptable exotic animal care program of not less than 30 semester hours is preferred.
- One year of experience in animal care at an AZA or equivalent facility, gained through employment, internships, or volunteer experience.
- Specific training and work experience in other settings, such as aquaculture, schools, nature centers, agricultural operations, or conservation centers may be considered on a case-by-case basis as fulfillment for the experience requirements.
- Strong interpersonal, team-building, and communication skills.
- Valid Texas driver's license or ability to obtain one within 60 days of employment.

Supervision

This position reports to a Zoo Supervisor and does not directly supervise any Zoo staff but may serve as a lead person for special projects or for interns or volunteers as assigned by the Zoo Supervisor.

Physical Effort

This position may require significant physical effort on a daily basis such as walking, bending, stooping, repetitive motions, lifting heavy objects (up to 50 pounds), or standing for long periods. This position may require the ability to make coordinated gross motor movements in response to changing external stimuli within moderately demanding tolerances.

Work Environment

There are routine exposures to significant levels of heat, cold, moisture, or inclement weather. This position may involve exposure to zoonotic disease, chemical substances or physical trauma of a minor nature. This individual may be required to work around potentially dangerous animals. Annual tuberculosis testing and vaccination for rabies or other zoonotic diseases may be required. The work schedule for this position may include week-ends, evenings, and holidays.

Public Contact

This position involves extensive contact with the public, donors, Zoo Members, and the media, requiring excellent interpersonal skills and an appreciation of the importance of guest service.

Please visit www.houstonzoo.org/careers to download an application
E-mail resume and completed application to careers@houstonzoo.org
Houston Zoo is an Equal Opportunity Employer