

ZOO KEEPER I

DEFINITION

Under immediate supervision, performs semi-skilled manual work of a specialized nature in the direct handling, care and feeding of zoo animals. Assists in the maintenance and minor repair of zoo facilities.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO

Performs routine food preparation and feeding functions in accordance with established diets and schedules; cleans and disinfects cages, houses, food and water containers, and related facilities and equipment; observes the movement and well-being of assigned collection; performs light maintenance work such as raking and sweeping leaves and debris from walkways and viewing areas, emptying waste receptacles, setting up, modifying, moving and dismantling animal exhibits and other maintenance repair work; assists in the care and medical treatment of injured and sick zoo specimens; assists in protecting zoo specimens, facilities and equipment from mistreatment, vandalism and theft; assists in retrieving escaped animals and protecting the public in such instances; handles various wild creatures, including those of a delicate and/or hazardous species; explains zoo regulations and answers questions from the public; keeps routine records and prepares simple reports; may operate various vehicles; must be able to lift and carry objects weighing up to 50 lbs.; and performs other related functions as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS

An employee in this experienced entry-level class performs responsible work as a member of a team working with zoo animals and assisting with routine maintenance. This class is distinguished from the Zoo Keeper II class by the degree of autonomy, complexity and variety of assignments.

MINIMUM BASIC QUALIFICATIONS

One year experience in the care of zoo animals involving some experience working with the public, or any equivalent combination of experience and education, which provides the knowledge and abilities listed below. College level courses in biology, zoology, or other related subject may be used in combination with experience to meet the minimum requirements.

DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of: animal behavior and care; feeding and handling (including manual restraint) of domestic and non-domestic varieties of animals; maintenance and repair of zoo facilities, grounds and equipment; elementary animal first aid; common varieties of wild and domestic animals found in zoo environments; record keeping.

Ability to: perform routine zoo-keeping and other maintenance work which may require manual work requiring physical strength, ability and stamina; withstand unpleasant working conditions associated with the care, feeding and handling of animals and the cleaning of living areas of zoo animals; understand and follow oral and written instructions including food preparation formulas, feeding schedules and medical treatments/prescriptions; understand and apply safety precautions pertaining to the feeding and handling of zoo specimens; deal tactfully and effectively with the general public, supervisors and co-workers; lift and carry objects weighing up to 50 lbs.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Possession and retention of a valid Class C Drivers License is a condition of continued employment. Rabies pre-exposure inoculations will be required as a condition of continued employment in classifications having direct contact with or exposure to wildlife and animals commonly found in zoos.

SPECIAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Must be willing and able to work weekends, holidays and occasional after-hours work assignments. Must be willing and able to work outside in a variety of weather conditions.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL PERFORMERS

Successful performers are energetic, well-coordinated and fast learners. Their excellent observation skills are critical for observing slight changes in animal behavior that might indicate illnesses, stress, or an impending birth. They are able to react quickly and safely in situations where there is potential danger to patrons or animals and, in case of animal emergencies, they do not hesitate when given instructions. Successful performers are outgoing, pleasant and professional.

Class title change from Zoo Attendant I per Council Resolution No. 80-109,
effective 7-1-80

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