

ZOO KEEPER IIDEFINITION

Under general supervision, performs responsible technical and 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 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; observes animals in assigned taxonomic grouping on a daily basis; assists in the care and medical treatment of injured and sick zoo specimens; works directly with the Associate Zoo Curator to develop plans for seasonal, behavioral or reproductive events in the assigned taxonomic groupings; mentors and assists in training of lower-level, part-time or volunteer staff; tracks volunteer hours; inspects assigned facilities, grounds and equipment and assists with necessary maintenance and repair work such as setting up, modifying, moving and dismantling animal exhibits; handles various wild creatures, including those of a delicate and/or hazardous species; 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; 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.; performs other related functions as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS

An employee of this journey level class must possess a demonstrable knowledge and ability regarding the care and handling of zoo animals. Faulty judgment or carelessness could result in the loss, injury or death of zoo specimens, or the injury or death of staff or visitors. This class is distinguished from the entry-level classification of Zoo Keeper I by the degree of autonomy and the increased complexity of the work performed, including assignments involving specific taxonomic groupings. This class is distinguished from the next higher class of Associate Zoo Curator in that, although the Zoo Keeper II may help train lower level, part time or volunteer staff, the Associate Zoo Curator is responsible for overall unit performance and full staff supervision.

RECOMMENDED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Two years of 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 any other related subject may be used in combination with experience to meet the minimum requirements.

### DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Working 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, physical strength, 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 coworkers; mentor and assist in training volunteer or lower-level staff; lift and carry objects weighing up to 50 lbs.

SPECIAL MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: must possess and retain a valid California Class "C" Drivers License as a condition of 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 any shift, including weekends, evenings, and holidays on a regular basis and nights on an emergency or as-needed basis.

Must be willing and able to work outside in a variety of weather conditions.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL PERFORMER

Successful performers are highly reliable individuals that have a strong work ethic and take pride in performing animal handling duties. These levelheaded individuals act quickly and efficiently in emergency situations, such as those involving an escaped animal, and exercise sound judgement when evaluating and responding to both routine and crisis situations. These energetic, enthusiastic professionals effectively utilize their knowledge and excellent observation skills to detect slight changes in animal behavior that might indicate illness, stress or an impending birth. They possess excellent interpersonal skills and enjoy sharing their knowledge with coworkers.

Class title change from Zoo Attendant II per Council Resolution No. 87-59,  
effective 7-1-87

Class Spec revised by HRD: 5/88  
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