



JOB SPECIFICATION
ZOO ANIMAL CURATOR

Code 16430
Grade PM 127

General Purpose

Under direction, manage animal care and exhibit maintenance and design through subordinate supervisors.

Typical Duties:

Plan, organize and coordinate animal management and care. Involves: Oversee, monitor and ensure the proper methods of maintaining, acquiring and disposing of captive animals are utilized. Ensure compliance with wildlife related laws and regulations. Acquire and maintain wildlife permits. Research, plan and conduct animal management activities. Inspect, review and request improvements in zoo operations, facilities and other areas within the zoo. Review, advise and oversee animal environmental enrichment. Maintain comprehensive records on animals.

Represent the department and provide technical support, information and guidance on animal curator issues. Involves: Respond to requests for information on zoo exhibits and animals, including care, environmental issues and other information. Perform research on zoo animals, environmental issues, exhibits and conservation. Develop comprehensive research papers. Coordinate section activities with other zoo sections, other city departments, state and federal agencies. Participate in decisions concerning animal management including exhibit design, animal acquisition, animal disposition, reproductive programs as well as conservation and education programs.

Supervise assigned staff. Involves: Schedule, assign, instruct, guide and check work. Appraise employee performance. Provide for training and development. Enforce personnel rules and regulations and work behavior standards firmly and impartially. Counsel, motivate and maintain harmony. Interview applicants. Recommend hiring, termination, transfers, discipline, merit pay or other employee status changes.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Application of considerable knowledge of exotic animal and aquatic animals care and handling principles and practices.
- Application of considerable knowledge of exotic animal exhibit design and maintenance.
- Application of considerable knowledge of exotic animal restraint, diet, habitats and common diseases.
- Application of considerable knowledge of environment factors required to maintain zoo animals.
- Application of considerable knowledge of positive animal enrichment techniques.
- Analyze and identify changes in animal behavior and take corrective action.
- Restrain zoo animals.
- Clear concise oral and written communication to prepare reports and present complex information.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with coworkers, officials, customer departments, contractors, regulatory agencies and the general public.



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Other Job Characteristics

- Requires mobility within a zoo environment.
- Works around a variety of animal species with potential for physical harm from bites, kicks, heavy lifting and restraining animals.
- Exposure to infectious diseases from daily contact with exotic and domestic animals including bacterial, fungal, parasitic and viral pathogens.
- Driving through zoo grounds and occasionally in City traffic.

Minimum Qualifications

Education and Experience: A Bachelor's degree in biology, zoology, wildlife biology or related field, and three (3) years professional exotic animal or aquatic species exhibits experience, including two (2) years supervisory experience.

Licenses and Certificates: Texas Class "C" Driver's License or equivalent from another state.