

Job Description - Keeper I

Position: Assistant Animal Keeper

Department: Animal Care

Reports to: Animal Care Manager, Supervisors

Wage rate: \$19 per hour

Position Requirements:

The assistant animal keeper is responsible for maintaining the quality standards of accredited zoological practices under the direction of the assigned mentor. The assistant animal keeper will assist assigned mentor in maintaining high standards of maintenance and care for a diverse collection of animals. The assistant animal keeper may assist with animal husbandry and welfare, exhibit maintenance, guest services, diet preparation, enrichment, record keeping and cleaning duties as required. The assistant animal keeper may be required to work with or within other departments. The assistant animal keeper will adhere to all health and safety regulations, legislation, and policies.

Key Responsibilities:

- 1) Maintain animal enclosures in a clean, sanitary, and efficient manner to the highest standards including inside animal enclosures, barns, service areas and guest areas;
- 2) Ensure animals have access to clean potable water.
- 3) Follow established routines and procedures as trained.
- 4) Prepare and distribute food as directed, observe assigned animals closely, routinely, and objectively report to Supervisor/Manager on their behaviour, health, and welfare.
- 5) Maintain and utilize records.
- 6) Observe condition of assigned area(s), animal enclosures, and equipment and report relevant information as appropriate. Inspect assigned enclosures for any hazards to animals, keepers and public.
- 7) Communicate with and assist guests. Participate in public demonstrations. Take initiative to facilitate guests' appreciation of animals and enjoyment of their visit.
- 8) Deal in a courteous and professional manner with zoo visitors and fellow staff.
- 9) Assist in daily enrichment implementation. Maintain animal equipment and facilities in good order.
- 10) Promote and participate in conservation projects and initiatives.
- 11) Conduct research to keep up to date with zoo animal species, taxonomy, natural history, conservation etc.
- 12) Follow all GVZoo policy and procedures.
- 13) Comply with all WCB safety regulations and work safe procedures. Maintain a safe work environment for both staff and general public.
- 14) Project a professional image while in uniform and when using radio.
- 15) Perform other related duties and responsibilities as required.



Accountability:

The assistant animal keeper position is a non-supervisory role.

Knowledge and Experience:

Knowledge of captive management and behaviours of a wide variety of domestic and wild animals. Current experience and knowledge of natural history, principles of animal behavior, and general animal husbandry an asset. Must demonstrate good time management skills, including flexibility, creativity, and responsibility in use of time. Experience with multiple taxonomic groups (e.g., carnivores, birds, hoof stock, reptiles) an asset. Demonstrated ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers, volunteers, and visitors.

Education Required:

A combination of work experience and education relevant to the zoological field.

Other Information:

Must possess a valid British Columbia Driver's License.

Physical Demands:

Lifting of supplies and materials up to 70 lbs. Sitting, standing, kneeling for extended periods. Must be physically able to participate in training sessions, presentations, meetings, and animal care.

Sensory Demands:

Frequent loud noise from construction activities, mechanical equipment, and animal vocalizations. Exposure to strong scents from animals and chemical cleaning products.

Mental Conditions:

Tight deadlines and competing priorities, which may cause stress. Emotional stress related to level of personal attachment to animals.

Environmental Conditions:

Outdoor elements. Extreme summer and/or winter conditions and temperatures. Contact with plant and animal material which may cause allergic reactions.

The above listed tasks are the responsibilities of all Assistant Animal Keepers employed by the GVZoo. Assistant Animal Keepers are not limited to the tasks listed above and may be required to perform additional tasks as assigned by Management and Supervisors.

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