



Position: Animal Zookeeper

Department: Animal Care

Reports to: Animal Care Manager, Supervisors

Rate: \$19/hr

Position Requirements:

The animal keeper is responsible for the day-to-day husbandry of the animal collection and issues pertaining to wildlife across the zoo while maintaining the quality standards of accredited zoological practices. The animal keeper will maintain high standards of maintenance and care for a diverse collection of animals. Responsibilities include: animal husbandry and welfare, exhibit maintenance, guest services, diet preparation, enrichment, record keeping and related duties as required. The animal keeper may be required to work with or within other departments. The animal keeper will adhere to all health and safety regulations, legislation, and policies.

Key Responsibilities:

- 1) Prepare and distribute food as directed, observe assigned animals closely, routinely, and objectively report to their Supervisor/Manager on their behaviour, health, and welfare.
- 2) Maintain and utilize records.
- 3) Follow established routines and procedures as trained.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Clean animal enclosures, pools, and service areas as assigned.
- 6) Ensure animals have access to clean potable water.
- 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) Train and direct work of interns, work experience students, and volunteers.
- 10) Aid in the administration of medical treatment, collect samples as requested, maintain quarantines as directed by the Animal Health & Welfare team.
- 11) May be required to assist with animal capture under the direction of the Animal Health & Welfare team.
- 12) Implement enrichment daily. Maintain animal equipment and facilities in good order.
- 13) Promote and participate in conservation projects and initiatives.
- 14) Conduct research to keep up to date with zoo animal species, taxonomy, natural history, conservation etc.
- 15) Follow all GVZoo policy and procedures.
- 16) Comply with all WCB safety regulations and work safe procedures. Maintain a safe work environment for both staff and general public.
- 17) Project a professional image while in uniform and when using the radio.
- 18) Perform other related duties and responsibilities as required.

**Knowledge and Experience:**

Minimum two years keeper experience or equivalent. Experience and work habits demonstrate understanding of AH&W concepts. Current experience and knowledge of natural history, principles of animal behavior, and general animal husbandry required. 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. Basic knowledge of computer programs including Microsoft Office software. Demonstrated ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers, volunteers and visitors.

Education Required:

A bachelor's degree in zoological science, wildlife management or a related field. Zoo Technology Diploma, Animal Health Technology Diploma, or comparable program. A combination of work experience and education may be considered.

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