

ZOO KEEPER

KIND OF WORK

Technical/para-professional animal management and animal research work.

NATURE AND PURPOSE

Under general supervision, an employee in this class performs specialized animal management responsibilities for the Minnesota Zoo which has an exotic animal collection of over 250 species. Performs work as required.

This class differs from the Zoo Keeper Lead in that the Zoo Keeper Lead provides lead work to Zoo Keepers.

EXAMPLES OF WORK (A position may not include all the work examples given, nor does the list include all that may be assigned.)

Observes and records animal behavior so that the animals' health and well being are maintained by keeping notes and other types of records.

Conducts special animal research projects and laboratory tests so that animal care practices are improved by operating laboratory equipment.

Assists interpretative naturalists and other Zoo staff in explaining habits and life styles of animals to promote the conservation of animals, to entertain and educate zoo visitors by communicating information to the public when they are watching the animals.

Cleans and sanitizes animal living quarters to provide the animals with a healthy environment by operating appropriate equipment and applying cleaning agents.

Assists in capturing and controlling animals to safely examine the animals for health problems by using the appropriate restraining devices, and by following required control procedures.

Prepares and feeds animals so that they receive the appropriate nutrition by feeding them the appropriate diet.

Maintains accurate records, such as food consumption and behavior so that animal diets are well balanced by using the appropriate charts.

Suggests improvements in animal nutrition, breeding, sanitation, scheduling, training and routine health procedures based on observation so that the animals are effectively managed by using effective and scientifically sound animal management practices and research protocol.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of:

The principles, practices and techniques of biology, zoology or animal husbandry sufficient to maintain the well being of the animal collection.

Animal management principles and practices as applied to an animal collection of mammals, insects, birds, amphibians, reptiles or aquatic life sufficient to maintain the well being of the animals under their care.

The Minnesota Zoo, its animal care and conservation philosophy and its operations and programs sufficient to perform job duties in a manner which is consistent with the mission of the Minnesota Zoo.

Ability to:

Comprehend difficult, technical information sufficient to performing technical animal care activities.

Understand and carry out oral and written instruction sufficient to provide health and other types of animal care.

Prepare and maintain technical records and reports in a clear and concise manner sufficient to record animal behavior and identify health and other types of problems.

Communicate animal information to the public, Zoo colleagues and co-workers sufficient to inform and educate regarding animal behavior.

Est.: 3/77
Rev.: 11/91
Ckd.: 02/02

T.C.:
Former Title(s):