



PROFESSIONAL ZOOKEEPER

Animal Care Professionals, or Zookeepers, are responsible for the daily husbandry, exhibit upkeep, enrichment, and operant conditioning of a diverse collection of wildlife. This full-time, hourly position is highly active and highly visible, and involves not only animal care, but maintenance of sanitary conditions of buildings, grounds, and enclosures. Work is performed in accordance to a schedule, with direction provided by a lead Keeper, Animal Care Supervisor, and Deputy Director. Because of the nature of zoo business, weekends and holidays are often required.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Prepare and distribute authorized diet and medication per approved schedule to a variety of species.
- Daily removal of all waste in exhibit, night house, or any area accessible by the animals.
- Daily inspection, notation, and repair or requisition to repair all exhibit buildings and fixtures.
- Research, development, and presentation of approved enrichment activities and items on a regular basis, often working with other keepers both onsite and at other attractions.
- Follow all instructions and guidelines with regard to veterinary care under the supervision of the on-call veterinarian, veterinary technician, and Jackson Zoo Animal Care management team.
- Research, develop, and execute approved animal training techniques and schedules for increase in safety for both animal and human.
- Keep concise and detailed notes of all animal care protocols for in-park and national/international statistics.
- Conduct “exhibit checks” during public hours and events, as well as present Keeper Chats (short educational public engagement). It is very helpful to be able interact with all ages in a safe and entertaining manner (for both animal and human).

HELPFUL SKILLS:

- Animal care and/or husbandry experience.
- Previous use of standard household or farming tools and equipment.
- Interest or experience in community wildlife rehabilitation programs.
- Interest or experience in conservation.
- Interest or experience in appearances at educational events and projects specifically calling for animal care presence.

TO QUALIFY:

- A high school diploma or equivalent is required, Bachelor of Science and/or years of equivalent experience preferred.
- Ability to work within a team setting.
- Solid written and verbal communication skills.
- Reliable transportation.
- Must be able to work weekends and holidays.
- Must be able to stand for long periods of time, and lift 50 lbs.
- Pass pre-employment drug-screen, background check, and be eligible for MS driver’s license.

Please email resume and cover letter with current contact information to Chris Herron at cherron@jacksonzoo.org with “Zoo Keeper” in the subject line.

(You can also mail documents to The Jackson Zoo, Attn: Chris Herron, 2918 West Capitol Street, Jackson MS 39209 or fax to 601-352-2594, Attn: Chris Herron.)