

JOB DESCRIPTION

Veterinarian Technician

Pueblo Zoo Mission: *To empower people to engage in conservation of animals and their natural habitat. Empower. Engage. Conserve.*

Pueblo Zoo Vision: *To be the trusted leader in our community raising awareness of the value of biodiversity and promoting conservation.*

Pueblo Zoo Core Values: *Animal Welfare, Conservation, Teamwork, Education, Collaboration, Community*

Status: Full-time, Non Exempt, Hourly

Reports to: Veterinarian

Compensation: \$22.18/hour

Benefits: Competitive benefits package including HMO and HSA-qualified health plans, a 3% employer matched SIMPLE IRA, 12 days of paid time off, 8 holidays, 6 sick days, and a commitment to flexible work schedules and professional development.

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

The Pueblo Zoo is a vibrant, collaborative, and flexible workplace. The Pueblo Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is home to nearly 250 animals representing more than 100 species. Driven by our mission to empower people to engage in conservation of animals and their natural habitat, we serve 100,000 annual visitors, provide educational outreach to tens of thousands of students, and directly support global species conservation. At its core, Pueblo Zoo values animal welfare, teamwork, education, collaboration and community. The zoo is located in Southern Colorado and provides a great living experience in a big, small town that offers endless outdoor and cultural opportunities.

JOB SUMMARY

The zoo's veterinary technician is responsible for supporting the zoo veterinarian and managing the veterinary hospital. The position is full time at 40 hours a week. The zoo veterinary technician's schedule will include work days without the zoo veterinarian, during which they are responsible for discussing any medical concerns with animal care staff and deciding if the on-call zoo veterinarian needs to be contacted.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Assist in the daily medical care of the animal collection including the administration of medications and care of hospitalized patients.
- Provide daily care for quarantined animals, including basic animal husbandry and medical care.
- Assist in safely capturing and restraining animals of all taxa for examination and treatment.
- Assist the veterinarian during animal examinations, anesthetic procedures, surgeries, and necropsies.
- Provide accurate medical triage of collection animals when the veterinarian is off-site and determine the need to contact the on-call veterinarian. Provide guidance for Animal Care Staff in non-emergent cases.
- Collaborate with Animal Care Staff on voluntary training of collection animals for various veterinary procedures (scale training, blood collection, vaccine/injection administration, etc.)
- Perform basic in-house veterinary diagnostics such as fecal analysis, hematology, cytology, urinalysis, dental and traditional radiography. Prepare and ship samples to outside laboratories when needed.
- Fill, order, and/or prepare prescriptions for medications timely and accurately.
- Assist in the upkeep and maintenance of all veterinary facilities and associated equipment. This includes: ordering and maintaining adequate stocks of hospital supplies and medications, cleaning and hygiene of all areas of the veterinary facility and quarantine spaces, and disinfection and sterilization of medical equipment.
- Perform excellent medical record keeping in ZIMS - Species360 software.

- Transportation of animals to airports or between facilities, which may include driving long distances, overnight trips, and associated administrative tasks.
- Transport animal remains to the local crematorium.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Excellent knowledge of veterinary sciences, medical procedures, and medical terminology.
- Excellent knowledge of exotic animal natural history, husbandry, behavior, and anatomy to proficiently identify and triage abnormal behavior or health problems.
- Proficiency in handling a wide variety of animal species, including small and large carnivores, primates, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and hoofstock.
- Working knowledge of sample collection, anesthesia, and surgical techniques and ability to perform associated technical skills on a wide variety of animal species.
- Working knowledge on how to operate veterinary equipment including radiology, laboratory, anesthesia, and dentistry equipment (dental radiography and portable dental unit).
- Working knowledge of basic epidemiology, infectious disease control, biosecurity, and personal protective equipment.
- Flexibility to work after hours, on weekends, and on holidays when needed.
- Ability to work independently - ability to triage medical cases, communicate effectively with Animal Care Staff, and maintain veterinary facilities/equipment/supply stocks without direct supervision or direction from the veterinarian.
- Ability to carry out complex oral and written instructions.
- Ability to maintain a high level of professionalism, work well within a team, and prioritize excellent communication and collaboration skills.
- Must be highly motivated, organized, and demonstrate a willingness to adapt positively to change.
- Additional essential qualifications include the following: ability to monitor and communicate via two-way radio, ability to operate a motor vehicle

Experience & Qualifications

- Graduate of an American Veterinary Medical Association Accredited Veterinary Technology Program with an active veterinary technician license. Currently holding or ability to obtain a Colorado veterinary technician license within thirty (30) days of employment.
- A minimum of 2 years as a technician in a zoo, wildlife, or exotic animal position.
- Previous experience and proficiency in ZIMS use, dart gun use, and familiarity with AZA, USDA, and Colorado State standards and regulations is desirable.

Physical and Environmental:

- Ability to work both indoors and outdoors, with several hours spent standing, at a desk, driving, or in inclement weather.
- Must possess physical strength and stamina, including lifting up to 50 lbs, traversing the zoo on foot, and the ability to safely capture and restrain a variety of animal species.
- Understand the occupational hazards and health-related risks inherent to working with zoo and wild animals. Provide proof of or obtain tuberculin skin test (PPD) and Rabies vaccination.
- Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.
- This job description is intended as a guide to the general job responsibilities and is not inclusive of every duty the employee is expected to perform.