

ZOOKEEPER

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, to coordinate the day-to-day operations and programs of the Applegate Park Zoo; to provide care and husbandry for captive wildlife and domestic animals housed in the zoo; to clean and maintain zoo facilities; to serve as an educational resource and provide information for zoo visitors; to ensure zoo compliance with all wildlife regulatory agencies and veterinary protocol and to do related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is a specialized classification for the positions which have responsibility for the care of animals, maintenance of facilities, and visitor assistance at the Applegate Park Zoo.

REPORTS TO

Director of Parks and Community Services or his/her designee.

CLASSIFICATIONS SUPERVISED

This is not a supervisory classification.

EXAMPLES OF IMPORTANT AND ESSENTIAL DUTIES *(The following is used as a partial description and is not restrictive as to duties required.)*

Coordinates the day-to-day functions and operations of the City of Merced Applegate Park Zoo; observes animals for well-being, condition, and normalcy; records problems and ensures proper reporting to designated City management/supervisory staff and veterinarian; maintains the health and well-being of exhibit animals, prepares appropriate food and provides adequate water; cleans, disinfects, and maintains areas where animals are housed daily; orders and maintains inventory of supplies for animal care and feeding; provides prescribed medications and related health care for animals, as directed by zoo veterinarian; opens and closes the zoo according to established schedules; maintains zoo operations records and permits required for the acquisition and disposition of animals; maintains current awareness of rules and regulations impacting zoo operations; conducts research to maintain awareness of diets, handling, and training for animals in captivity; interacts with zoo visitors, providing information, explaining regulations, and enhancing their enjoyment of visits; performs a variety of maintenance, landscaping and custodial work in maintaining and cleaning zoo facilities and grounds; attends meetings and makes presentations, as assigned by the department director of zoo supervisor.

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TYPICAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Frequently stand and walk; sit for extended periods; walk on sloped ground and slippery and uneven surfaces; normal manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination; ability to lift material weighing over 100 pounds with assistance; ability to bend, stoop, kneel, crawl, and crouch; corrected hearing and vision to normal range; verbal communication; use of a variety of hand and power tools, operate vehicles and equipment, use of office equipment, including computer, telephone, calculator, copiers, and FAX machine.

TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Work is performed in an zoo lab/office, enclosed animal confinement areas, and outside in varying temperature, weather, and humidity conditions; work is performed in an environment with constant public visitors; exposure to gasses, cleaning and sanitation chemicals, medicine and vaccines, fumes, dust, grease and oils; work is performed in close proximity to animals which may exhibit erratic and sometimes dangerous behavior.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Philosophy, principles, and techniques used in operation of a zoo and providing animal exhibits for public visitors.
Basic principles of captive wild life husbandry.
Dietary needs of animals in captivity.
Facility and grounds maintenance.

Ability to:

Maintain day-to-day responsibility for the operations and programs of the Applegate Park Zoo.
Perform a variety of animal care tasks, maintaining the health and well being of animals in captivity.
Develop and coordinate animal acquisitions with all regulatory agencies prior to relocation to Applegate Park Zoo and apply knowledge of animals housed in the Applegate Park Zoo.
Perform facility and landscape maintenance at the Applegate Park Zoo.
Maintain proper safety precautions in working with animals that sometimes exhibit erratic behavior.
Maintain a variety of reports and informational material.
Effectively and tactfully represent the City and the Applegate Park Zoo in providing information and interacting with zoo visitors.
Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with coworkers, supervisors, zoo visitors and zoo veterinarians.

Training and Experience:

Any combination of training and experience which would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required knowledge and abilities would be:

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Graduation from high school and two years of responsible experience in the care, handling, and feeding of captive animals and zoo operations. Completion of twelve (12) units of advanced educational training in animal science, zoology, biology, wildlife management, or a closely related field is highly desirable.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

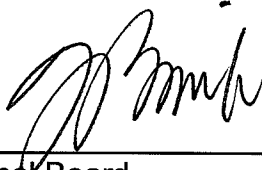
Special Requirements:

Possession of an appropriate California Driver's License.

Reference: City of Merced Personnel Rules and Regulations, Sections 5.05 and 5.07.

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APPROVED _____



Chairperson, Personnel Board

DATE

5/8/06