



JOB TITLE: ZOOKEEPER I

DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

JOB CLASS NUMBER: 6414

DIVISION: Louisiana Purchase Gardens & ZOO

REVISION DATE: 12.7.2021

Acceptance – Department Head

DEFINITION/DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF JOB:

This is an advanced keeper position. Under the immediate supervision of Departmental Animal Supervisor and General Curator this person is responsible for the husbandry of the Zoo's animals and exhibits.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

- *Responsibilities include monitoring the signs of health and normal behavior (and deviation from them) of the animals in their care through observation, study and discussion with other keepers.*
- *Maintains Zoo policies and safety techniques.*
- *Provides the proper care, feeding and handling of the animals in their care.*
- *Records their observations in a systematic manner.*
- *Employees at this level will do light maintenance (carpentry, plumbing, cement work, plant care) in, and to exhibits and buildings.*
- *Keepers interact with the public.*
- *Keepers at this level may be trained to work with venomous reptiles or large carnivores.*
- *Learns other related duties, as assigned, to support the functioning of the Zoo.*
- *Tactfully enforces Zoo rules with the general public.*
- *Follows the Louisiana Governmental Code of Ethics for public servants.*
- *Performs other reasonable duties within the scope of work or in emergency situations as assigned by the appropriate authority.*

EDUCATION and EXPRIENCE:

- *Must be at least 18 years of age.*
- *A high school diploma or GED from an accredited source.*
- *College courses are highly desired with college degrees substituting for zoo experience.*
- *Some animal care experience is required.*
- *A completed application with verifiable work history.*
- *Prior zoo experience is required.*

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS and ABILITIES:

- *Ability to understand and follow oral and written plans and instructions.*
- *Ability to give written and oral reports.*
- *Must be able to stand and walk most of the day and be able to climb in and out of enclosures and may work in small, enclosed spaces.*
- *Must be able to swim and be able to run.*
- *Job requires frequent bending and lifting. Must be able to lift 75-lbs and carry 50-lbs.*
- *Keepers are required to work outdoors in all weather.*

- *Must be able to read and write English and perform simple math.*
- *Knowledge of animals and animal handling is very helpful, will work with a variety of large and small exotic wildlife. Must be comfortable in the handling of animals.*

WORKING CONDITIONS and PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

- *Animals must be cared for 365 days a year, so weekend and holiday work is required.*
- *Keepers work inside and outside, year-round, in ALL kinds of weather.*
- *May work in mud, water or dry, dusty areas.*
- *May work in small, enclosed places or at heights well off the ground.*
- *May be exposed to high-intensity noises and biological wastes.*
- *May be exposed to dangerous animal contact which requires climbing, running, swimming, lifting and agility.*
- *Working with live animals is inherently dangerous and lack of attention or focus can expose employees to physical danger.*

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATES:

Current and Valid Driver's License

INTERNAL POSTING PERIOD: 5/31 - 6/13/24

Position posting goes public after 10th day.