PUEBLO ZOO JOB DESCRIPTION

**Ambassador Animal Keeper**

***Pueblo Zoo* *Mission:***

*To empower people to engage in conservation of animals and their natural habitat.*

*Empower. Engage. Conserve.*

**Status:** Part-time (30 hours), Non-Exempt, Hourly

**Reports to:** Area Supervisor

**ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW**

The Pueblo Zoo is a vibrant, collaborative, and flexible nonprofit workplace. 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. The Pueblo Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is home to 400 animals representing more than 100 species.

**General job description:**

Performs basic husbandry for the Ambassador animal collection under the supervision of the Area Supervisor. This position works closely with volunteers. Subject to 24-hour on-call availability for emergencies. This position is 30 hours per week.

**Duties & responsibilities:**

* Routine cleaning of animal exhibits/holding/service areas to USDA/AZA standards
* Prepare and distribute animal diets
* Observe and report animal behavior and medical concerns
* Administer veterinary treatments under direction of Area Supervisor or Vet
* Observe and report maintenance needs of equipment, buildings and grounds
* Set up animal exhibits. Use current AZA standards to determine best configurations and materials to be used in new and established exhibits/enclosures
* Routine handling of animals during public demonstrations
* “Daylight” keeper operations in Discovery Room. Allow public to observe routine cleaning, enrichment and training while eliciting interaction
* Answer questions from the public in a friendly, educational manner
* Train new animal handling volunteers including adults and teen zoo volunteers
* Write accurate and detailed animal records
* Develop and execute training and goal-based enrichment plans

**Knowledge, skills, & abilities:**

Must possess a working knowledge of similar or related work, ability to follow written and oral directions, and the ability to exercise good judgment in evaluating situations. Applicant must possess physical strength and stamina, including lifting 50lbs, bend, climb, stoop, and reach. Requires working directly with grass hay, alfalfa, straw, and furred/feathered/scaled animals. Applicant must be able to foresee and apply safety precautions where necessary. The position will require working weekends, holidays, and occasional after-hours assignments. Must obtain a valid Colorado drivers license within 30 days.

**Minimum qualifications:**

Applicants must have a high school diploma, and have at least 1 year of professional small animal handling experience or currently enrolled in zookeeping related program.

**Preferred qualifications:**

Candidates meeting the following criteria will be strongly considered:

* Experience working with volunteers of all age groups
* Arthropod, amphibian, and reptile experience
* Experience with small animal enrichment
* Animal care experience in an AZA facility
* Public speaking skills, animal handling training experience, organizational skills to help keep track of ordering and needs for animals and their welfare, previous accreditation experience

**To apply:**

Send resume, cover letter, and references to jobs@pueblozoo.org. Applications received by December 8, 2021 will receive full consideration. No calls, please.