

Zoo Keeper Lead

KIND OF WORK

Provide lead work over zoo personnel involved in animal management and animal research work.

NATURE AND PURPOSE

Under limited supervision, an employee in this class performs lead work in specialized animal management responsibilities for the Minnesota Zoo that has an exotic and domestic animal collection for over 250 species. Lead work is on-going, daily responsibility to prioritize, schedule, assign, direct, guide and report on the work activities of assigned Zoo Keepers so that the work is completed in an effective and efficient manner. This is accomplished by recommending to the supervisor or manager the allocation of human and financial resources; by distributing and reassigning work tasks to other state employees; by directing other state employees on daily work assignments; by instructing other state employees on how to complete their work tasks; by immediate remedial action to correct and improve their work; and by reporting on the quality, quantity and timeliness of work performance to the supervisor or manager.

This class differs from the Zoo Keeper in that the Zoo Keeper Lead provides lead work to Zoo Keepers.

EXAMPLES OF WORK (A position may not include all the work examples given, nor does the list include all that may be assigned.)

Plans, assigns and inspects the work of zoo personnel.

Provides technical advice and assistance to employees involved in animal care and exhibit maintenance or development.

Trains zoo personnel, student interns, and shop personnel in proper repair and maintenance procedures and performs final inspections on completed work.

Informs employees on zoo safety rules and proper equipment usage and enforces their compliance.

Observes and records animal behavior so that the animals' health and well being are maintained by keeping notes and other types of records.

Conducts special animal research projects and laboratory tests so that animal care practices are improved by operating laboratory equipment.

Assists interpretive naturalists and other zoo staff in explaining habits and life styles of animals to promote the conservation of animals, to entertain and educate zoo visitors by communicating information to the public when they are watching the animals.

Cleans and sanitizes animal living quarters to provide the animal with a healthy environment by operating appropriate equipment and applying cleaning agents.

Assists in capturing and controlling animals to safely examine the animals for health problems by using the appropriate restraining devices, and by following required control procedures.

Prepares and feeds animals so that they receive the appropriate nutrition by feeding them the appropriate diet.

Maintains accurate records, such as food consumption and behavior so that animal diets are well balanced using the appropriate charts.

Suggests improvements in animal nutrition, breeding, sanitation, scheduling, training and routine health procedures based on observation so that the animals are effectively managed by using effective and scientifically sound animal management practices and research protocol.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of:

The principles, practices and techniques of biology, zoology or animal husbandry sufficient to maintain the well being of the animal collection.

Animal management principles and practices as applied to an animal collection of mammals, insects, birds, amphibians, reptiles or aquatic life sufficient to maintain the well being of the animals under their care.

The Minnesota Zoological Garden, its animal care and conservation philosophy and its operations and programs sufficient to perform job duties in a manner which is consistent with the mission of the zoo.

Ability to:

Comprehend difficult, technical information sufficient to performing technical animal care activities.

Understand and carry out oral and written instruction sufficient to provide health and other types of animal care.

Prepare and maintain technical records and reports in a clear and concise manner sufficient to record animal behavior and identify health and other types of problems.

Communicate animal information to the public, zoo colleagues and co-workers sufficient to inform and educate regarding animal behavior.

Est.: 1/02
Rev.:
Ckd.:

T.C.:
Former Title(s):