

Zoo Attendant I

DEFINITION

Employees of this class perform a variety of direct animal husbandry care, visitor information and assistance, facilities and grounds security supervision, and minor maintenance and repair functions that are typical of a large scale and diversified zoo setting.

The various duties are performed in accordance with animal feeding and care schedules, facilities maintenance needs, shifts assigned, current weather conditions, and facilities are maintained in a manner consistent with standards appropriate to high volume public visitation and acceptable zoo environment.

Duties are performed under the direction and supervision of a Zoo Foreman, and as experience is gained, incumbents perform duties independently. New assignments are undertaken with detailed instruction, and incumbents also assist with the orientation and training of new employees and volunteers.

TYPICAL DUTIES*

Cleans and disinfects cages, enclosures, corrals, stalls, pools, pastures and related areas through the use of tools, cleaning agents, and hoses. Replaces bedding materials as needed.

Cleans facility services and public areas that are adjacent to animal enclosures.

Prepares and distributes appropriate quantities of feed and water in accordance with specific dietary needs, adjusts volume and content in consultation with the Foreman, and participates in special feeding requirements of young and injured animals.

Checks animals for signs of illness, injury or distress and reports irregularities to the supervisor. Assists veterinarians with capture, restraint and treatment of animals and administers medications as directed.

Maintains accurate records of animal condition, feeding schedules, maintenance requirements, etc.

In consultation with shift colleagues and Foremen, inputs into the development of training programs for animals involved in public demonstration and education programs, public rides, and associated keeper and public safety. Participates in training of animals used for demonstration purposes including elephants, sea lions and camels. Conducts demonstrations and rides for visitors.

Provides feeding, living and behavioural information on animals to visitors, both informally or during public talks and tours.

Patrols zoo grounds, buildings and facilities to protect against unauthorized entry, trespassing, vandalism and mistreatment of animals.

Provides direction to seasonal, volunteer and less experienced staff.

Performs minor construction and repair of cage furnishings, transportation crates, etc.

Retrieves and distributes needed materials and supplies throughout the premises, picks up materials from outside vendors; loads, transports and unloads animals and supplies.

Performs related duties as required.

KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES AND SKILLS

Demonstrated skills in animal husbandry and associated knowledge of dietary, veterinary and specific behavioural requirements of a wide range of animals.

Ability to understand and follow written and verbal instructions and to maintain required record keeping.

Ability to deal with staff and members of the public in a courteous and helpful manner.

Sufficient strength and stamina to perform heavy manual labour tasks required.

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Job Level

Progression on the salary range is dependent on the successful attainment of a combination of both education/training and experience in accordance with the following:

Entry Rate: Grade 12 and demonstrated basic knowledge and experience in biological sciences pertaining to the understanding and care of zoo animals, including habitat, diet, health, training, reproduction, evolution and adaptation to environment and/or history.

1st Year Rate: In addition to the above requirements, incumbents must complete 1944 hours (equivalent to one full time year) of service, and successfully complete the Zoo Attendant checklist.

Thereafter Rate: Eligibility is contingent upon incumbents completing another 1944 hours (equivalent to one full time year) of service and successful completion of 3 post secondary credit courses from a recognized institution from the following subject areas:

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|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Taxonomy | Ecology | Vertebrate Anatomy |
| Parasitology | Wildlife Management | Herpetology |
| Genetics | Lab Animal Science | Ornithology |
| Nutrition | Physiology | Mammal Science |
| Laboratory Research | Etiology (Animal Behaviour) | |

- ❖ The above list is subject to additions deemed to be relevant and related to the understanding and care of zoo animals.

** This is a class specification and not an individualized job description. A class specification represents and defines the general character, scope of duties and responsibilities of all positions within a specific job classification. It is not intended to describe nor does it necessarily list the essential job functions for a specific position in a classification. Positions may perform some of the duties listed above but this does not necessarily qualify for placement into this classification.*

Salary Plan	<u>10M</u>	<u>10A</u>	<u>10B</u>	<u>10C</u>
Job Code	0040			

Last Updated:
 Previous Updates:
 Originated: