



Office of Human Resources  
Zoo Veterinary Technician - CO2672  
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### General Statement of Duties

Assists zoo veterinary staff providing medical, surgical, and preventive veterinary care for the animals at the Denver Zoo including administering anesthesia, basic health care, dentistry, behavioral science, diagnostic laboratory, technical support, and zookeeper duties.

### Distinguishing Characteristics

This class is distinguished from a zookeeper that provides for scientific husbandry of an assigned species of animals at the Denver Zoo, and is distinguished from the veterinarian technician that monitors and participates in the care of small animals (dogs & cats) at the Denver Municipal Animal Shelter.

### Level of Supervision Exercised

None

### Essential Duties

Assists veterinarians with surgical and preventative veterinary care including emergency care for ill and injured animals, injections, and animal restraint.

Administers anesthetics during surgery and monitor the effects on animals.

Monitor animals' recovering from surgery and notify veterinarians of any unusual changes or symptoms.

Provide emergency first aid to sick or injured animals.

Captures and crates animals and assists in their restraint, transport and movement.

Develops protocols and performs as the primary care provider in the care, feeding and hand rearing of infant zoo animals.

Cleans the animal health care facility to maintain medical standards of sanitation.

Restocks and orders medical supplies as necessary.

Assists medical technician with routine laboratory diagnostic tests.

Collect laboratory specimens such as blood, urine, and feces for testing.

Trains hospital volunteers in the care and feeding of hospital and nursery animals.

Provides hospital animals with a safe, clean and appropriate environment by cleaning, maintaining and disinfecting exhibits, cages, buildings and surrounding areas.

Maintains environmental controls and applies pest control measures.

Observes animal behavior and reports changes such as aggression, sickness, injury, breeding activity or the need for modifications to the exhibit.

Recommends exhibit and behavioral enhancements to meet animal physical or psychological needs and makes inspections to ensure animals are properly secured.

Prepares daily reports detailing events such as breeding activity, food and water intake, transfer or shipment and behavioral characteristics.

Provides information and participates in education and conversation programs about the zoo and the collection to inform fellow keepers, patrons, docents, volunteers, interns, VIP's and the maintenance and grounds staff.

Trains fellow keepers, interns and volunteers in standard section routines and coordinates the efforts of contactors and maintenance staff when they are working in animal areas.

Performs other related duties as assigned or requested.

Any one position may not include all of the duties listed. However, the allocation of positions will be determined by the amount of time spent in performing the essential duties listed above.

### **Competencies**

Conscientiousness - Displays a high level of effort and commitment towards performing work; demonstrates responsible behavior.

Manages Resources - Selects, acquires, stores, and distributes resources such as materials, equipment, or money.

Oral Communication - Expresses information to individuals or groups effectively; taking into account the audience and nature of the information; makes clear and convincing oral presentations; listens to others, attends to nonverbal cues and responds appropriately.

Teaching Others - Helps others learn through formal or informal methods; identifies training needs; provides constructive feedback; coaches others on how to perform tasks; acts as a mentor.

Technical Competence - Uses knowledge that is acquired through formal training or extensive on-the-job experience to perform one's job; works with, understands, and evaluates technical information related to the job; advises others on technical issues.

### **Knowledge & Skills**

Knowledge of plant and animal living tissue, cells, organisms, and entities, including their functions, interdependencies, and interactions with each other.

Knowledge of the concepts, principles, and theories of plant, insect, or animal diseases and host/pathogen relationships, including effects on natural and managed ecosystems.

Knowledge of veterinary techniques and procedures sufficient to be able to assist veterinarians and perform a variety of duties related to the work assignment.

Knowledge of chemicals and cleaning agents sufficient to be able to maintain the cleanliness of work area.

Knowledge of inventory practices sufficient to be able to identify shortages, reorder as necessary, and maintain adequate levels of supplies.

Knowledge of diet sufficient to be able to cultivate and maintain live food items and propose diet changes based on observations and research of the literature.

Knowledge of safety practices and precautions common to the field of zoo keeping sufficient to be able to provide safety instructions to subordinates and others and to recognize and correct hazardous conditions.

Knowledge of animal behavior sufficient to be able to identify record and report unusual behavioral characteristics.

Knowledge of the methods and techniques of handling animals and typical/atypical animal behavior sufficient to be able to determine the proper procedures and equipment to be utilized to ensure safety of the animals, employees, and the general public.

Skill in utilizing the principles and practices of effective and persuasive communications to elicit and/or present explanatory or interpretive information.

Skill in performing manual labor associated with the care and feeding of animals.

Skill in independently adapting, interpreting and applying written guidelines, precedents and standardized work practices to a variety of unprecedented or problematic situations.

Skill in filling out forms and completing paperwork related to the work assignment.

Skill in establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with other employees, organizations and the public.

### **Education Requirement**

Bachelor's Degree in Biology or a related field.

### **Experience Requirement**

Completion of either an internship in the animal department of an AZA-accredited institution or work experience as a docent or volunteer in the animal department at an AZA-accredited institution.

### **Education & Experience Equivalency**

No substitution of experience for education is permitted.

Additional appropriate education may be substituted for experience requirements.

### **Licensure & Certification**

By position, requires a valid Driver's License at the time of application.

Certification by Colorado Association of Veterinary Technicians (CACVT).

Licenses and certifications must be kept current as a condition of employment.

### **Working Environment**

Wet: frequent contact with water or other liquid.

Hazards: conditions where there is danger to life, body, and/or health.

Potential exposure to infections from disease-bearing specimens

Potential exposure to infections and contagious diseases.

Potential exposure to hazards of handling diseased organs & tissues

Potential exposure to hazardous anesthetic agents, body fluids & wastes

Potential exposure to radiation hazards

Potential exposure to biohazards radioactive substances

Potential exposure to odorous chemicals and specimens  
Potential exposure to housekeeping/cleaning agents/chemicals  
Potential exposure to burns and cuts  
Subject to unpleasant elements (accidents, injuries, & illness)  
Subject to varying and unpredictable situations  
Handles emergency or crisis situations  
Performs emergency care  
Potential exposure to odors in kitchen and/or patient areas  
Subject to many interruptions  
Subject to long irregular hours  
Potential exposure to toxic chemicals.

### Level of Physical Demand

3-Medium (20-50 lbs.)

### Physical Demands

(Physical Demands are a general guide and specific positions will vary based on working conditions, locations, and agency/department needs.):

Standing: remaining on one's feet in an upright position.

Walking: moving about on foot.

Lifting: raising or lowering objects weighing no more than 50 pounds, from one level to another.

Carrying: transporting an object, usually by hand, arm, or shoulder

Pushing: exerting force upon an object so that the object is away.

Pulling: exerting force on an object so that it is moving to the person.

Balancing: maintaining body equilibrium to prevent falling over.

Stooping: bending the body by bending spine at the waist.

Crouching: bending body downward and forward by bending legs.

Reaching: extending the hand(s) and arm(s) in any direction.

Handling: seizing, holding, grasping, or otherwise working with hand(s)

Fingering: picking, pinching, or otherwise working with fingers.

Feeling: perceiving attributes of objects by means of skin receptors.

Talking: expressing or exchanging ideas by means of spoken words.

Hearing: perceiving the nature of sounds by the ear.

Repetitive motions: making frequent movements with a part of the body.

Eye/hand/foot coordination: performing work through using two or more movements.

Lifting: raising or lowering an object 10-25 pounds.

Far Acuity: ability to see clearly at 20 feet or more.

Near Acuity: ability to see clearly at 20 inches or less.

Depth perception: ability to judge distance and space relationships.

Field of Vision: ability to see peripherally.

Accommodation: ability to adjust vision to bring objects into focus.

Color Vision: ability to distinguish and identify different colors.

### Background Check Requirement

Criminal Check

Employment Verification

Education Check

Licenses/Certification

By position, Motor Vehicle Record

**Assessment Requirement**

None

**Probation Period**

Six (6) months.

**Class Detail**

**Pay Grade: O-613**

**FLSA Code: N**

**Established Date: 9/21/2018**

**Established By: LS**

**Revised Date:**

**Revised By:**

**Class History:**