



Lead Zookeeper- Carnivores

The Fresno Chaffee Zoo inspires wonder of our natural world, provides an engaging learning environment, and creates a passion for conservation. Serving the central San Joaquin Valley, the zoo is committed to sustaining professional active participation in wildlife conservation, research and wildlife education. As a proud recipient of the AZA Top Honor Exhibit Award, we are committed to providing our local community and the AZA community exhibits and programs we all can be proud of.

November 4th marked an important day for Fresno County as our community voted to continue to financially support the Zoo through the approval of Measure Z. This measure provides us with financial security that allows us to continue to offer an incredible experience for our guests while providing excellent animal care, and a challenging yet fulfilling working environment. For more information on this project please visit our website and watch the posted video that showcases our most recent project: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhnj1_KgpwY

Lead Zookeeper Carnivore – The Fresno Chaffee Zoo is developing a breeding group of African Lions and the Lead Zookeeper will play a key role in coordinating and developing an enthusiastic team. The Carnivore team currently cares for 2.2 Lions, 2.2 Meerkats and 0.2 Cheetah. A large number of enrichment opportunities have been built into the project and most training will be conducted at a detailed protected contact wall in one of our guest areas.

To be successful in this role the Lead Zookeeper must demonstrate strong leadership and work cooperatively with all zoo staff and the variety of species on the savannah. A comprehensive understanding of animal training and conditioning methods is essential to succeeding in this role.

Responsibilities

The Lead Zookeeper acts as a working lead and communication liaison between zookeepers and curators, ensuring communication flows effectively from curators to zookeepers and from zookeepers to curators. This position requires the ability to lead area staff in a daily routine, using available resources to complete all the goals and responsibilities of the department. The lead zookeeper is responsible for communication creating a cohesive team that can successfully meet team objectives. This position assists in addressing issues in the section and maintains consistent expectations with the keepers as established by the assistant curators. This position performs skilled animal husbandry, observation and enclosure maintenance for a variety of taxa. This position develops, maintains and advances the training and enrichment programs for a variety of species. This position also requires the ability to present demonstrations and animal talks throughout the day. Responsibilities of this position also include providing an excellent guest experience while providing for the care, feeding, maintenance and observation of animals, as well as recordkeeping and assisting with movement of animals as directed. This position also assists with veterinary procedures as required. Performs other duties as assigned.

Requirements:

Three years experience in the care, handling and feeding of animals in a zoological or aquarium setting is preferred. Experience as a team leader and experience working in or leading a formal, structured training program is preferred. A Bachelor's degree (BA or BS) from an accredited college or university; and one year related experience and/or training; or an equivalent combination of education and experience required. Twelve units of accredited college or university level course work in animal science, zoology, biology, wildlife management, or related field may be substituted for six (6) months experience. Experience in an AZA facility is preferred. The ability to obtain a valid California driver's license and good driving record. Good written and verbal communications skills are essential. Must be able to work evenings, weekdays, weekends, and holidays.

Good physical condition: ability to lift a minimum of 75 lbs. (i.e. feed sack) and move a minimum of 100 lbs. (i.e. hay bale). While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to stand; walk and reach with hands and arms. The employee is occasionally required to sit; climb or balance; stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl. Vision capabilities required include close, distance and peripheral vision, depth perception and ability to adjust focus. Evaluating animal health, diet, or environment requires hearing and smell. Interaction with guests and animals requires talking and hearing. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is occasionally exposed to wet or humid conditions (non-weather) and outdoor weather conditions. The employee is occasionally in direct contact with exotic animals and is occasionally exposed to work near moving mechanical parts; work in high, precarious places. The noise level in the work environment varies. Occasional loud noises from visitors, animals or equipment are experienced.

If you have the desire and skills needed to help create an all-around dynamic experience at Fresno Chaffee Zoo, and are interested in putting your talents to work, then we are asking you to apply by February 5, 2017 as directed below.

Please submit resume to careers@fresnochaffeezoo.org or mail to:
Fresno Chaffee Zoo Corporation, 894 W Belmont Ave. Fresno, CA 93728.
Applicants can visit www.fresnochaffeezoo.org to apply online.
Fresno Chaffee Zoo is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer