



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

ANIMAL KEEPER I for a SWING Keeper Position

Basic Purpose and Responsibility

Under the supervision of the Chief Zoological Officer, Curator, and/or Assistant Curator, the Swing Keeper is responsible for supporting the day-to-day operations associated with the husbandry of the animals and the maintenance of animal exhibits within multiple areas of the Zoo as assigned. Swing keepers will learn and work multiple routines across several teams. **Swing keepers will NOT have a set schedule – days off and shifts will change frequently to meet the needs of the Animal Care Department and the Buffalo Zoo.**

Essential Functions

- Primary accountability for specific functions and results. The list of essential functions is not exhaustive and may be supplemented or changed as necessary.
- Prepares and provides diet and feeding regime to designated animals as specified by the Asst. Curator, Curator, or Veterinarian.
- Assists in the cleaning and shifting of animals to perform exhibit maintenance duties and modify exhibits to meet seasonal requirements.
- Assists veterinary staff with any prescribed treatment routines or medication administration.
- Records and reports any abnormal animal health or behavioral condition to the supervisor noting any short or long term variances.
- Assists with departmental research projects, training, and enrichment activities as directed by the Curators and provides support to other Zoo projects as needed.
- Identifies any potential maintenance or safety issues and reports them to the supervisor.
- Cooperates in answering questions presented by the public, other zoo employees, volunteers and interns to promote quality guest service.
- Assumes the duties of Keeper II and/or III on an as needed basis.
- Oversees work activities and provides training for interns or seasonal workers assigned to that area.
- Performs any additional animal care duties or departmental responsibilities as directed by the supervisor.

Position Qualifications

To perform at a proficient level and be fully qualified, a person would be expected to have:

Education (Minimum Needed):

- Two-year degree in one of the natural sciences or other discipline - four-year degree preferred. Degrees in other fields may be substituted by additional relevant experience.

Experience (Minimum Needed):

- One - two years' experience with a diversified exotic animal collection gained through internships, volunteer experience or employment. Extensive domestic animal experience may be a qualifying substitute.
- Previous experience with multiple taxonomic groups experience highly preferred.
- Demonstrated understanding and tangible achievement with behavioral management techniques including operant conditioning training and enrichment implementation is also highly preferred.

Special Skills:

- Experience with physical restraint equipment, vehicles and related maintenance equipment.
- Demonstrated proficiency in use of all cleaning and husbandry equipment and supplies.

Other:

- Must possess or be able to obtain within 30-days of employment a valid New York State driver's license and have an average or better driving record based on the evaluation process of our insurance company. Retention of position is contingent upon maintaining required license. Must upgrade to classification appropriate to requirements (non-CDLC or CDL class).
- Provide proof of negative TB test upon hire. TB test conducted annually.
- Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays as necessary.
- Position is part of the Zoo's emergency weather team and is expected to report when the Zoo is closed due to weather.
- Must support Buffalo Zoo's Vision, Mission and Core Values.

Physical Demands

- The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.
- Able and willing to perform sustained work of a physical nature, that may require heavy lifting.
- While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to stand; walk; use hands; reach with hands and arms; stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl and talk or hear. Use computer hardware and software for extended periods of time (repetitive motion). Sitting for long periods of time. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision, peripheral vision, depth perception and ability to adjust focus.
- A fitness for duty test will be required in order for the successful candidate to be given further consideration for the position.

Benefits / How to Apply

If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Buffalo Zoo, via zooapplications@buffalozoo.org Position open until filled. No telephone calls please. Use subject line: Buffalo Zoo Animal Keeper I SWING. Attachments are to be formatted: Last name first name Cover Letter.Doc or PDF, and Last name first name Resume.Doc or PDF. **For more information about the Buffalo Zoo, please visit our website at: <http://www.buffalozoo.org>**

Some of the benefits available include health plan, life insurance, long term disability insurance, dental, vision, 403B retirement plan, annual leave, holiday, and sick time benefits. Benefits available after the successful completion of a probationary period of 60 days of work (sick time available upon hire).

Rate of Pay: \$19.04 per hour upon successful completion of one full year of service. During the probationary period, the hourly wage is 85% of the full rate; then will increase to 90% of the full rate after passing probation until one year of employment before the 100% wage is achieved.

The Buffalo Zoo is an At Will employer and all Buffalo Zoo employees are subject to employment eligibility and background security checks as well as testing for illegal substance use as allowed by law.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER