



## POSITION AVAILABLE

### AMBASSADOR ANIMAL CARE SPECIALIST (PART-TIME)

#### Basic Purpose and Responsibility

Under the supervision of the Director of Education and Community Partnerships, the part-time Ambassador Animal Care Specialist is responsible for assisting in the care and training of all Education Department ambassador animals, educational opportunities, and seasonal animal demonstrations on Zoo grounds.

#### 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 protocols to Education Department ambassador animals.
- Cleans and shifts animals for the purpose of exhibit/enclosure maintenance and modifications.
- Monitors, documents and reports daily animal health and behavioral status, noting short and long term changes.
- Maintains compliance with AZA and USDA regulations. Reports any potentially non-compliant issues immediately to the Team Lead and Director of Education and Community Partnerships.
- Identifies maintenance and safety issues, and aides in their resolution.
- Assists veterinary staff with coordination and treatment routines and medical administration. Helps prepare animals for other medical procedures or surgeries.
- Conducts animal training for animal care, medical procedures, and educational purposes through on-going planning, tracking and record keeping.
- Completes keeper reports, maintains animal care records, animal welfare records, enrichment records and records of animal usage.
- Helps coordinate the administrative process for the acquisition of animals for the Education Department in conjunction with the Animal Department registrar as needed.
- Tracks supply and equipment needs and orders materials as directed to support inventory needs.
- Assists in the development and implementation of educational opportunities including, but not limited to: keeper talks, animal encounters, seasonal animal demonstrations, events, and media appearances.
- Maintains cleanliness and upkeep of ambassador animal exhibit components. Reports signage/interactives issues to Director of Education and Community Partnerships.
- Provides training for interns as needed.
- Works with Ambassador Animal Care Specialist team and Education team to assess the effectiveness of specified shows/demonstrations, perform in the shows/demonstrations/programs, and makes appropriate modifications to maintain quality programming as needed.
- Assists in the development and implementation of other educational programs/special presentations involving various designated animals housed in the Education Department as needed.
- Performs other duties as assigned by the Director of Education and Community Partnerships and Team Leader.

#### Position Qualifications

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

##### *Education (Desired):*

- Four-year degree in zoo/animal-related science or two-year degree plus equivalent experience.

##### *Experience (Minimum Desired):*

- One-year animal husbandry, animal handling and animal training experience gained through employment, internships or volunteer work. Experience with domestic farm animals and a wide variety of small exotics preferred.
- Six months of teaching/public speaking experience to diverse audiences or equivalent experience.

*Special Skills:*

- Well developed communication skills.
- Outgoing, enthusiastic personality.
- Experience with physical restraint equipment and practices, vehicles and related maintenance equipment; proficiency in use of all cleaning and husbandry equipment and supplies.
- Ability to work as a team member with Zoo Education team and overall Zoo team.
- Working knowledge of personal computers and software applications preferred.

*Other:*

- Provide proof of negative TB test upon hire (test must be taken within the last 12 months). TB test conducted annually.
- Must support the Buffalo Zoo's Vision, Mission, Core Values and DEAI Values.
- Successful completion of a post-offer pre-employment general medical screen and drug test.
- Successful completion of a post-offer pre-employment background check.
- Successful completion of a post-offer fitness for duty test.
- Regular attendance and punctuality are essential functions of the position.
- Must be able to work weekends, holidays and requested overtime 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 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).

**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.

- 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). 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.

**Pay Rate / Benefits / How to Apply**

- Pay rate dependent upon skills and experience: Starting at \$15 per hour.
- Sick Time is accrued based on hours worked, and is available once accrued (1 hour for every 30 hours worked).
- Buffalo Zoo family membership (after passing 60-days worked probationary review).
- Associates are eligible for discounts while employed at food service and gift shop. Food service discount is 30%. Gift shop discount is 20% (on purchases of \$10 or more).

**Please submit resume outlining education and experience by April 28<sup>th</sup> 2023 to (no phone calls please):**

**Lori O'Day email: [loday@buffalozoo.org](mailto:loday@buffalozoo.org)**

**Buffalo Zoo**

**Attn: Ambassador Animal Care Specialist PT  
300 Parkside Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14214**

*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**