

## **Austin Zoo**

# **Certified Veterinary Technician/Zookeeper**

### **POSITION SUMMARY**

Austin Zoo in Austin, Texas is a non-profit organization whose mission is to assist animals in need through rescue, conservation, and education. This small Hill Country zoo is home to around 300 animals representing over 110 species of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Austin Zoo is fully accredited by the Zoological Association of America. The zoo has a small onsite veterinary clinic with a pharmacy and surgical suite. The clinic is equipped with a digital radiography system and portable ultrasound.

This position will have dual roles as a veterinary technician and zookeeper. Under the general supervision of the Zoo Veterinarian and General Curator, the Veterinary Technician assists in the care of all zoological specimens in the collection. The Veterinary Technician has a key role in the implementation of preventative medicine programs as well as high quality patient care and welfare. The ideal candidate should emphasize collaborative and teamwork behaviors and have the ability to take initiative and work independently. This person must have good organizational skills and be able to handle multiple responsibilities during routine and/or emergency conditions. In general, this position will spend 1 to 2 days a week in the role of veterinary technician and 3 to 4 days a week in keeper routines.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Prepare for and perform technical duties during medical and surgical procedures.
- Perform sample collection and evaluation, including fecal parasite examinations, urinalysis and other laboratory tests including preparing samples for shipment.
- Assist in administration of medications and treatments for animals.
- Maintain complete and current computerized medical records as well as performing data entry into ZIMS.
- Maintain hospital standards of cleanliness including but not limited to instrument sterilization and preparation, sweeping, mopping, removing trash, disinfecting and when necessary, performing animal husbandry duties.
- Maintain hospital inventory, pharmacy, medical and surgical supplies.
- Maintain a controlled substance log and ensure adherence to local, state and DEA requirements.
- Regular, responsive, and collaborative communication with the Veterinarian and Curator regarding new and ongoing medical, behavioral and nutritional concerns.
- Participate in staff meetings as scheduled.
- Perform all aspects of Animal Husbandry including, but not limited to cleaning, feeding, medicating, enrichment, training, handling/restraint, etc.

- Maintain records pertaining to feeding, behavioral observations, training activities, medical procedures, etc.
- Report facility needs to General Curator and Director in a timely way.
- Adher to area-specific standard operating procedures (SOPs) including safety.
- Must be able to maintain discretion with confidential information.
- Other duties as assigned.

## **PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS**

- In good health and capable of performing strenuous and/or heavy physical labor.
- No history of allergies related to animals or plants, which might interfere with ability to work.
- Ability to remain on feet for long periods of time, climb stairs, bend and stoop.
- Ability to work in all weather conditions.
- No impairment of sight, smell, hearing, touch, balance and agility of movement which might interfere with ability to work.
- Physical strength, including the ability to lift up to 50 pounds and be able to move up to 100lbs.
- Immuno-competence (possible exposure to zoonotic infections/disease).
- Proof of negative TB screening prior to placement and annually thereafter required.
- Proof of rabies vaccination preferred.

## **EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**

- RVT certification in Texas required.
- Recent experience working in a veterinary clinic or hospital.
- Recent clinical experience at a zoological facility preferred.
- Zookeeping experience preferred.
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively, both verbally and in writing.
- Valid Texas driver's license or ability to obtain one within the first 60 days of employment.
- Ability to react calmly and objectively in emergency situations and under adverse conditions.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume via email to [Info@austinzoo.org](mailto:Info@austinzoo.org) and include references. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.