

Job Opening: Full-Time Medical-Veterinary Assistant/Chimpanzee Caregiver

Open: June 2023

Closed: When filled

Start Date: As soon as possible



Nature of Position

Provides for the routine care and management of the chimpanzee and cattle residents at the sanctuary and contributes to CSNW's education and outreach efforts. Assists Veterinarian during medical examinations and treatments, surgical procedures, and emergency care of chimpanzees and cattle.

Relationship to Staff and Volunteers

Reports to Chimp House Manager. Works under direction of the attending veterinarian. May train new staff on caregiving duties. Trains and oversees Chimp House volunteers of all levels when on duty and directs the activities of other staff while in the role of Lead Caregiver.

Position Duties

- Assists veterinarian with medical procedures and veterinary care as needed utilizing the skills listed in the required qualifications section (below)
- Participates in the Positive Reinforcement Training program to help the chimpanzees develop cooperative health monitoring behaviors
- Safely transfers chimpanzees to and from various areas within the facility and unlocks enclosures for regular cleaning and maintenance
- Prepares food for each chimpanzee by following written diet instructions, serves meals to each chimpanzee, and administers medicines as instructed to promote proper nutrition and health
- Cleans chimpanzee indoor and outdoor enclosures and conducts pest control activities
- Observes and monitors chimpanzees' general health and behavior around other chimpanzees, staff, and volunteers and informs supervisor of any abnormal behavior to ensure chimpanzee safety and procures immediate medical care as necessary
- Provides effective supervision and direction to volunteers to further develop and build their skills, experience, and expertise
- Responds to violations of safety protocols and reports violations to supervisor
- Provides regular enrichment opportunities for the chimpanzees according to enrichment protocols
- Prepares and updates chimpanzee records and reports, and ensures thorough documentation/accounting of daily activities to enhance understanding of the chimpanzees' health and behavior
- Trains regularly on chimpanzee escape and emergency response procedures and participates in emergency drills
- Maintains an annual tuberculosis test and seasonal influenza vaccine schedule and strictly follows all COVID-19 safety policies
- Contributes to Outreach and Education Programs
 - Shares stories, photos, and video of the chimpanzees on the CSNW blog

- Conducts guided tours for invited guests
- Maintains paper and electronic medical records
 - Enters all medical records into digital database
 - Files paper records after entry if necessary
- Assists with caring for the sanctuary's cattle herd
 - Feeds hay and special diets and provides fresh water
 - Cleans barns and provides fresh bedding
- Assists with other projects as assigned

Other Responsibilities

- Follows CSNW philosophy of care in all interactions with chimpanzees
- Establishes and promotes a friendly relationship with the chimpanzees to ensure their wellbeing
- Abides by established safety protocols at all times

Position Schedule

- Position is full-time (salaried, non-exempt): Set weekly schedule will be determined by the chimp house manager
- Weekend shifts, holiday shifts, and evening on call hours required
- Overnight stays at the sanctuary may be required occasionally when live-in staff are away

Compensation

- \$46,000-49,000 commensurate with education and experience
- Medical, dental and vision
- Short- and Long-Term Disability Insurance
- Paid Time Off policy includes sick, vacation, maternity/paternity (WA state), and bereavement time
- SIMPLE IRA retirement plan matching up to 3% of compensation

Required Qualifications:

- One year paid experience in the veterinary or medical fields
- Demonstrated skill in the proper use of laboratory and medical equipment such as gas anesthesia machines and monitoring equipment, IV catheter placement, and IV fluid administration
- Ability to lift 50 lbs. and handle the physical requirements of cleaning enclosures
- Computer and internet proficiency
- Ability to communicate professionally and persuasively both in writing and in person
- The right candidate must work well with others, have a positive attitude, and be fully dedicated to the chimpanzees' care

Preferred Qualifications:

- Education in primate behavior or related field
- Professional experience in chimpanzee care in a sanctuary, zoo, or related setting
- Experience working in primate medicine
- Experience in emergency medicine and surgery
- Comfortable handling and assisting with veterinary procedures on cattle
- Working knowledge of commonly used pharmaceuticals and drug dose calculation

To apply, submit cover letter and resume, with at least two professional references, to:

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