

**ROWAN COUNTY  
HUMAN RESOURCES**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Job Title** : Animal Keeper Naturalist  
**Department:** Parks  
**Revised** : August 2022

**Class** : Paraprofessional  
**FLSA** : Non-exempt

*This job description supersedes any prior description for the Animal Keeper Naturalist classification.*

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

Responsible paraprofessional level work providing daily care to the resident animal collection at Rowan Wild. Supervision is received from the Nature Center Supervisor, who reviews work through observation and periodic conferences.

**ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS** (Any one position may not include all of the duties listed, nor do the listed examples include all tasks which may be found in positions of this class.)

Provides daily care and miscellaneous husbandry for the resident animal collection at Rowan Wild, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. Husbandry includes cleaning, feeding, medical treatment (advised by veterinarian), enrichment, operant conditioning training, etc

Coordinates medical care with veterinary team and relays medical treatment information to remaining team members

Provides information/resources to the public concerning injured/orphaned wildlife or other wildlife observations/concerns on or off site.

Responds to questions from the public regarding natural history, zoology, and animal rehabilitation; answers requests to identify a variety of animal and plant species.

Participates in the construction, repair, and maintenance of the facilities at Rowan Wild including buildings, nature trail areas, and animal containment areas.

Organizes and trains part-time staff and volunteers to assist with animal care and educational programming.

Assists in the preparation for and participates in special parks and recreation events and programs.

**OTHER JOB FUNCTIONS**

Performs related duties as required.

*Management reserves the right to add or amend duties at any time.*

**KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES**

Considerable knowledge of practices, procedures, programs, and facilities related to the operation of a nature center in a public sector environment.

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Considerable knowledge of the care and feeding of various species including mammals, birds, amphibians, and fish.

Considerable knowledge of a variety of natural sciences.

Considerable knowledge of various computer software programs for use creating animal care logs, diet charts, enrichment, and training charts, etc.

Working knowledge of the construction, repair, and maintenance of Nature Center related facilities.

Ability to work with and handle a variety of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.

Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees and the public.

### **PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS**

Work may include sitting, walking, bending, stooping, and lifting weights of approximately 50 lbs or less unassisted and weights over 50 lbs with assistance. Work may include both indoor and outdoor activity where employee is exposed to elements of nature: cold, hot, rain, snow, sleet, ice, etc. Employee must be able to maneuver in tight places such as the crawl space under a building, climb ladders, step over obstacles, step on and off machinery, etc. Work may include operation of a motor vehicle. Employee may be exposed to hazardous chemicals, smoke, or potentially hazardous or volatile situations.

### **EXPOSURE CONTROL**

Work activity is normally performed without blood or body fluid exposure but exposure may occur in an emergency. Personal protective equipment should be available and used if an emergency arises.

Staff will be required to participate in any zoonotic disease prevention programs.

### **MINIMUM EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING**

Associate's Degree from an accredited college or university in Science, Biology, Zoology, Botany or other relevant area, and 2 years of experience in environmental or science education, a nature center, zoo, or aquarium setting, or in working with animals; or equivalent combination of training and experience; a valid driver's license is required.

**This job description does not create an employment contract,  
implied or otherwise.**