

**ROWAN COUNTY  
HUMAN RESOURCES**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

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

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

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

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

Responsible paraprofessional level work providing care for the resident animal collection at Rowan Wild, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. Aids with public educational programming with a focus on conservation, environment, natural sciences, animals, etc. Participates in activities/events of Rowan Wild and related areas. Aids in the regular upkeep and maintenance of Rowan Wild areas. 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.

Updates and maintains individual animal records for the resident animal collection on a daily basis.

Confers with private citizen owners of sick or wounded wild animals and provides resources on actions to be taken.

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.

Aids in organizing and training part-time staff and volunteers to assist with animal care.

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

Provides customer service to park visitors, including park information, directions, ticket sales, etc. as needed.

**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 **Job**

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center in a public sector environment.

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 and the ability to utilize on a regular basis.

Working knowledge of the construction, repair, and maintenance of Rowan Wild related facilities.

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

Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing.

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

Ability to walk, stoop, bend, and lift weights in excess of 50 lbs.

### **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 one year 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.**