



## ALASKA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER

**Title:** Animal Keeper  
**Category:** Fulltime, Year-round  
**Reports To:** Curator, Assistant Curator  
**FLSA Status:** Non-Exempt

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### General Function

- Under direct supervision of the Animal Curator and Assistant Curator, the Animal Keeper performs tasks requiring specialized skills in connection with the care and maintenance of the animal collection and exhibit facilities at the center
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### Major Activities (Typical Duties/Responsibilities)

- Works days and hours assigned by the Animal Curator; changes based on season. Requires late shifts until closing (8pm) during summer operating hours, as well as possible overnights during calving season.
  - Provides water and food for animals and cleans exhibits in assigned area. Makes daily animal observations and reports any abnormal behavior or health concerns, exhibit security, and/or safety concerns to the on-duty supervisor immediately.
  - Diet preparation and distribution following prescribed diet and feeding procedures.
    - Records diet consumption daily and notifies supervisor of feeding behavior changes.
  - Recommends improvements in animal care procedures, exhibit upkeep, and employee and visitor safety.
  - Carries out prescribed veterinary treatments as assigned by the contracted veterinary staff and Animal Care management.
    - Assists in capture and crating/uncrating of animals.
  - Performs routine maintenance and upkeep of walkways, zoo grounds and facilities as assigned.
    - Reports needed major repairs, checks and maintains equipment used.
  - Acts as a liaison to the public by courteously answering questions and enforcing engagement rules for the animals.
  - Presents educational programs and tours when assigned.
  - Research and preparation of information regarding zoo specimens for discussion with the public and other professionals.
  - Represents the AWCC animal care department in a positive way during any filming operation the AWCC management decides to partake in, helping to promote the facility in a positive light and garner public support.
  - Reports all departmental personnel concerns directly and immediately to the Animal Curator.
  - Carries out the responsibilities of the position in a professional and appropriate manner.
  - Other duties as assigned.
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### Required Skills/Abilities

- Ability to work in a team environment to help achieve AWCC's goals and objectives.
  - Strong communication skills, both written and oral.
  - Must possess a positive and respectful attitude.
  - Excellent customer services skills.
  - Be willing and able to work in extreme weather conditions; rain, snow, sleet, sun or wind.
  - Exceptional work ethic, attention to detail and time management skills.
  - Abilities to lift 80#, bend, reach, stand, crawl, and work in a drastically changing weather environment
  - Ability to compromise, listen, learn, understand, and follow instructions and directions.
  - Skill in establishing and maintaining cooperative working relationships with other employees.
  - Ability to work directly with the public, providing information and assistance as needed.
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- Ability/willingness to learn and pass on to customers those areas of interest to visitors, such as local history, people, culture, geography, etc.
  - Must be able to work a flexible schedule as needed
  - Proven ability to effectively lead in a fast-paced environment
  - Efficient, organizational skills, time management and ability to multitask
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#### **Preferred Qualifications (education, experience, skills)**

- A Bachelor of Science degree in animal sciences
  - A minimum of 1 year of related experience
  - Experience with training via operant conditioning of wildlife species
  - A positive attitude and strong work ethic.
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#### **Benefits**

- Compensation starting at \$24/hour, DOE
- 12 paid holidays including the employee's birthday (New Year's, Easter, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Indigenous People's Day, Thanksgiving, Day-After Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas).
- Medical, dental and vision insurance, AWCC covers 100% of premium
- Sick leave, 1 hour per every 30 hours worked. Max accumulation of 58 hours annually.
- PTO package up to 2 weeks in first year of employment.
- Option to enroll in 403-b retirement, matching 5% from the company after 1 yr of service.
- Housing is available on site, bunkhouse and bunkbed style. First 6 months rent-free for FT/YR staff.

EMPLOYEE PRINTED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_