Nashville Zoo Position Description
ANIMAL CARE
Curator of Primates and Carnivores

Position: Curator of Primates and Carnivores
Department: Animal Care
Supervisor: Director of Animal Operations

Description:
This position is responsible for all aspects of management of the Primate and Carnivore departments of Nashville Zoo at Grassmere. Reporting directly to the Director of Animal Operations, the Primate/Carnivore Curator assists with animal acquisitions, husbandry programs, daily exhibit maintenance, oversight of routines, animal enrichment, training programs, exhibit design, and all aspects of staff selection, training, and development. This position is part of the Animal Management Team and partners with the Operations and Maintenance, Veterinary, Education, and Administration departments. 2017 will see significant growth for this team with the opening of three major exhibits: spider monkey, Andean bear complex, and tiger.

Duties and Responsibilities:
Department Management
• Develops animal management protocols and is directly responsible for the management of the overall animal collection in the primate and carnivore areas.
• Participates in the development of new facilities and implements improvements to existing facilities.
• A member of the Curator, Education, Veterinary, Operational and Management team for Nashville Zoo at Grassmere.
• Assists in the development of the general husbandry, training, and enrichment programs for the animals within the department.
• Ensures compliance of all zoo, USDA, AZA and TWRA policies.
• Develops area annual budget and operates within budget parameters.
• Plans for, manages, and develops assigned staff. Recruits, trains, assigns, and supervises the Leads and Area Supervisors
• Participates in scientific meetings, conferences, and workshops pertaining to the species under the charge of the curator. Authors papers and presents lectures on husbandry and conservation issues.
• Interacts with other zoological institutions and conservation organizations regarding the progressive care, husbandry, and conservation of the species under the Curator’s care.
• Interacts locally, regionally, and globally in conservation issues and programs concerning the species under the care of the Curator.

Financial Oversight
• Reviews, recommends and monitors annual budget for the Primate/Carnivore departmental expenses
• Manages based upon these budgets and takes corrective action when necessary to ensure that approved budgets are not exceeded
Personnel Management

- Plans for, manages, and develops assigned staff
- Recruits, trains, and supervises Leads and Area Supervisors
- Ensures that performance of all department personnel is reviewed regularly and new staff are selected and appropriately trained
- Identifies opportunities for staff growth and development, and assists staff to take advantage of these opportunities
- Ensures consistent compliance with Zoo policies

External Relations

- Represents the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere before other zoos, conservation societies, professional and educational organizations, the media, and federal and state agencies to present the Zoo’s position on animal management and conservation issues in a well-informed, positive and responsive manner
- As appropriate, takes a leadership role in professional organizations
- Writes articles and makes presentation to these bodies
- Works with Development and Marketing, and other staff, to provide technical input into educational programs and communications to the public
- Assists the Zoo as requested by serving on Zoo-wide committees, teams, and task forces, and meeting with and touring special guests and visitors

Animal Collection

- Red ruffed lemur, ring-tailed lemur, Mexican spider monkey, cotton top tamarin, white cheeked gibbon, siamang, meerkat, giant anteater, tamandua, binturong, clouded leopard, Andean bear, cougar, banded palm civet.

Performs other duties as assigned to meet the goals and mission of the Nashville Zoo.

Skills:

- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to manage a large and diverse staff
- Ability to give clear oral and written guidance to employees
- Ability to work a flexible schedule, including weekends, evenings, and holidays
- Ability to obtain a valid Tennessee Driver’s License and to operate a motor vehicle
- Ability to operate a personal computer and other basic office equipment
- Excellent organizational skills
- Excellent public speaking skills
- Ability to represent the organization and to maintain professionalism in various situations
- Thorough knowledge of training and care techniques with various species

Education and Experience:

- Bachelor’s degree in Zoology, Biology, or a related field
- Training in the collection, care and conservation of exotic animals.
- Minimum ten or more years experience in the collection, care, and conservation of exotic animals
- Minimum five years of experience in a management capacity
**Physical Requirements:**
- Ability to lift up to 50 pounds
- Ability to work indoors and outdoors in temperatures ranging from below 20 to above 90 degrees Fahrenheit with high humidity
- Ability to walk up and down stairs, bend down, ambulate quickly

**Background Check:**
Applicants for this position are required to submit to a criminal background check and pass a drug test.

Please email resume and cover letter in Microsoft Word or PDF format to careers@nashvillezoo.org or hr@nashvillezoo.org