

# ***Animal Keeper Job Description***

## ***Summary of Position***

Under the direction of the Animal Care Manager, Animal Keepers work with a variety of species, all of which are native to the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. Keepers are responsible for providing the daily needs of all resident animals and for recording notes and observations about each animal. Keepers have direct responsibility for the training program and additional aspects of care of specific residents, based on experience and interest. This position requires that the employee live in the immediate area of the Sanctuary (Red Lodge or Carbon County, MT) due to harsh weather conditions and the need for continual care of the animals.

## ***Duties and Responsibilities***

Qualified candidates should have a background in animal husbandry. Previous experience working with dangerous animals and hoofstock is preferred. The qualified candidate will be an outgoing and dynamic person that works well individually and as part of a team. The selected candidate for this position will be expected to learn and work with all species at the Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary.

- Daily animal care responsibilities. This will include but is not limited to food preparation, food delivery, habitat cleaning, and species-appropriate enrichment/training
- Record notes and observations about residents daily. At a minimum, notes will include tracking of significant dietary measurements, updated animal measurements, and notes on training and enrichment sessions, medical issues, and/or unusual observations.
- Implement and update training protocols and procedures for specific residents as delegated by the Animal Care Manager.
- Accurately administer prescribed medication to senior and/or recovering residents.
- Follow all safety protocols as directed by the Animal Care Manager and YWS Safety Committee.
- Suggest animal care and habitat improvements to the Animal Care Manager as appropriate. With approval, take the lead on implementing projects.
- Assist the education team as necessary with educational programming, including keeper chats and animal encounters.
- Assist in any animal-related capture, restraint, and emergencies as requested, based on experience and ability. Maintain knowledge of all emergency procedures and respond professionally to stressful and/or emergency situations.

- Work with dangerous animals in a calm, respectful, and responsible manner.
- Assist with the transportation of animals as necessary.
- Identify and communicate with the facilities team any maintenance repairs needed for the safety of animals, visitors, and staff as well as overall upkeep of the facilities.
- Supervise volunteers and interns.
- Other duties include but are not limited to hauling water/supplies, snow removal, grounds maintenance, dealing with local wildlife, organizing storage facilities, unloading hay/straw/produce deliveries, and maintaining clean employee areas.

## **Qualifications**

- **Required:** At least three months of experience caring for wild animals in captivity.
- **Required:** Strong organizational skills, reliable, detail-oriented, and able to work in a team, as well as independently.
- **Required:** Outstanding written and oral communication skills.
- **Required:** Formal training in biology, wildlife management, animal husbandry, zoology, or related field.
- **Required:** Must be respectful of, not allergic to, and not afraid of wild animals.
- **Required:** No criminal record (verified by criminal background check).
- **Required:** A valid driver's license and an insurable driving record.
- **Required:** Ability to stand, walk, bend, reach, and stoop easily for prolonged periods of time in all weather conditions.
- **Required:** Ability to regularly lift at least 50 pounds.
- **Required:** Willingness to learn to operate equipment and machinery such as power tools, gardening equipment, 4-wheel drive vehicles, and a Bobcat (skid steer tractor).
- Preferred: Associate's degree or higher in a relevant field.
- Preferred: Experience working with bison or other hoofstock, and/or working with other large dangerous animals.
- Preferred: Background in, or willingness to learn, carpentry/construction skills.

If interested in this position, please submit your resume and a cover letter to [jobs@yellowstonewildlife.org](mailto:jobs@yellowstonewildlife.org)

**Hiring immediately. Hourly 14.00-14.75 plus PTO, and health insurance stipend.**