

**CLASS SPECIFICATION**

01/14/2016

**ZOO NUTRITIONIST, 2364**

**Summary of Duties:** The Zoo Nutritionist is responsible for the oversight of the animal nutrition program at the Los Angeles Zoo. Responsibilities include oversight of the warehouse functions of the animal commissary; diet analysis, diet formulation and diet preparation in accordance with current animal nutrition science and application; and purchasing of feedstock and related items.

**Class Characteristics:** The Zoo Nutritionist provides work direction to animal commissary staff in purchasing, preparing, and distributing food and supplies. The Zoo Nutritionist will develop, evaluate, and implement the diets for all animals in the Zoo's collection and serve as the primary animal nutrition resource for Zoo staff.

**Examples of Duties:**

- Manage the daily operations of the Zoo's animal commissary, including supervising all staff assigned to the commissary, and preparing and managing the Commissary's annual budget.
- Supervise, the ordering, preparation, and delivery of animal nutrition plans.
- Evaluate and design diets for each species in the Zoo's animal collection. Provide nutritional analysis and create animal nutrition plans in consultation with the Animal Care and Veterinary management team in order to provide proper nutritional care for animals.
- Act as the primary resource for questions related to eating habits and feeding methods. In consultation with management, recommend and implement nutritional changes or programming based on findings.
- Perform analysis, reevaluate, and update diet plans when needed. Maintain reports on animal dietary history to ensure nutritional standards are met.
- Develop and implement food quality control programs and remain current on pertinent regulations and standards to ensure safe food storage and management of dietary items for the Zoo collection. Monitor and maintain food supply inventory and ensure freshness and proper rotation.
- Compile data for a variety of reports.
- Provide guidance to Zoo staff on the animal enrichment programs involving food items.
- Participate in multi-institutional programs that advance nutrition and welfare for captive wildlife, including species survival plans, taxon advisory groups and conservation initiatives.
- Represent the Los Angeles Zoo at national and international meetings, such as the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Nutritional Advisory Group, Comparative Nutritional Society, and other professional organizations.

**QUALIFICATIONS / COMPETENCIES:**

**Knowledge of:**

- The principles and practices of nutrition as applied to the care and feeding of zoo animals.
- Relevant scientific research in the areas of animal nutrition.
- Recommended food requirements, feeding methods, and analysis needed to properly administer a successful animal diet.
- Purchasing practices including vendors and specialty sources, preparation of bid specifications, bulk ordering and record maintenance.
- Safe food handling techniques.

**Ability to:**

- Use computer-based diet formulation software for exotic and domestic animals at a zoo.
- Develop diets for exotic and domestic animals in a zoo.
- Use word processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentation, and statistical analysis software.
- Communicate effectively (verbal and written).
- Lead and direct the work of subordinate staff.
- Interact effectively with Animal Care, Animal Health, and other Zoo staff.

**REQUIREMENTS**

1. A Master's degree from an accredited college or university with a concentration in nutrition, dietetics or other related field; and
2. Two years full-time paid experience overseeing nutritional management for a wide variety of animals kept in the zoo environment, or completion of a Zoo Nutrition residency program.

**LICENSE:** A valid California driver's license is required.

**PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:** Strength to perform average lifting up to 5 pounds and occasionally over 15 pounds; good speaking and hearing ability; and good eyesight.

Persons with disabilities may be able to perform the essential duties of this class with reasonable accommodation. Reasonable accommodation will be evaluated on an individual basis and depend, in part, on the specific requirements for the job, the limitations related to the disability, and the ability of the hiring department to reasonably accommodate the limitations.

**As provided in Civil Service Commission Rule 2.5 and Section 4.55 of the Administrative Code, this specification is descriptive, explanatory and not restrictive. It is not intended to declare what all of the duties, responsibilities, and required qualifications of any position shall be.**