ANIMAL TRAINER

Job Description:

**Animal** **Trainers** help prepare animals to perform certain tasks or refrain from exhibiting undesirable behaviors. Animal Trainers will work closely with animals, monitoring their behavior and physical condition, and their owners or handlers to determine their expectations and discuss the animal’s progress and abilities. A animal trainer is responsible for creating a training program to promote a animal's good behavior. They help animal owners train their animals. A few of the main duties of a animal trainer are identifying problem behaviors, teaching the owner methods to train their animal, developing a training plan for the animal, and creating a welcoming environment. They also have to understand the owner and animal's needs.

Job Responsibilities:

* Speaking with animal owners or trainers to determine their goals and expectations.
* Developing an understanding of animal behavior.
* Creating training regimes for animals.
* Monitoring animals for health and behavioral issues, learning about their unique abilities.
* Feeding and medicating animals.
* Using positive reinforcement and other techniques to elicit desired animal behavior.
* Providing updates to other parties about the progress and condition of the animals.
* Educating others about animals, their behavior, training, and the environment.
* Providing general care to animals, such as grooming, cleaning habitats or sleeping areas, and familiarizing animals with human voices and contact.
* Some positions may require assistance with breeding the animals.
* Create a training plan for the animal
* Teach commands to the animal and owner
* Be patient with a stubborn animal
* Teach owners about animal behavior
* Understand an owner's needs
* Work with the owner to teach them about their animal
* Teach owners how to reinforce good behavior
* Listen to animal owner concerns

Job Qualifications:

* Bachelors in Ethology required
* Masters in Ethology preferred
* Experience working with animals
* Experience as an animal trainer

Opportunities as an animal trainer are available for applicants without experience in which more than one animal trainer is needed in an area such that an experienced animal trainer will be present to mentor.

Job Skills Required:

* Love for animals
* Familiarity with the following:
  + Operant conditioning
  + Positive reinforcement
  + Clicker training
  + Hand signals
  + Voice commands
  + Reward systems
* A working understanding of animal behavior
* A working understanding of animal psychology
* A working understanding of human psychology
* Exceptional patients and tolerance
* Ability to multi-task and prioritize work
* Ability to recognize animal issues that prevent training
* Attention to detail and problem solving skills
* Resourcefulness and ability to problem solve
* Outstanding communication and interpersonal skills
* Ability to not take customer issues personally
* Good listening skills
* Sound understanding of animal behavior.
* The ability to stand for long periods of time.
* The ability to treat all animals with compassion.
* The ability to lift heavy animals and equipment.
* Excellent communication skills.
* Exceptional customer service skills.