

The Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines, Iowa is seeking well qualified candidates for the position of Veterinary Assistant/Technician. The Blank Park Zoo houses over 180 different species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. The successful applicant will be expected to serve an essential function as part of the Animal Health Team by assisting veterinarians during veterinary procedures and treatments, maintaining medical records, supervising and teaching veterinary students on rotation, and providing care to hospitalized animals. This position reports directly to the Chief Veterinarian & Associate Veterinarian at the Blank Park Zoo.

The recently remodeled Blank Park Zoo Veterinary Hospital includes on-site treatment, surgery, pharmacy, laboratory, hospital, necropsy and student training areas. Hospital equipment includes portable digital radiography, ultrasound, thermography, I-STAT blood analyst, multi-parameter monitors, and endoscopy.

The Veterinary Assistant will be expected to understand AZA and AAZV Standards and strive to meet or exceed current standards for Zoo Animal Care. **Preference will be given to well qualified candidates that possess previous working experience as a certified veterinary technician or employed as a veterinary assistant for at least 2 years. Experience with captive wild animal care and or exotic animal veterinary care is preferred.** Hours and days for work may vary, and will include weekends, evenings, and holidays. This is a permanent, full-time, hourly-paid position. (Expected yearly pay range \$25,000-\$27,000 per year plus benefits).

Additional duties include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting veterinarians and completing medical tasks as directed, including, but not limited to, preparing for patient procedures and anesthesia monitoring during veterinary procedures.
- Entering medical record information into paper medical records and ZIMS Medical system.
- Assists with cleanliness, stocking, ordering and organization of all veterinary hospital facilities.
- Follows all protocols to maintain safe conditions for staff and animals.
- Completes tasks related to all aspects of animal care and welfare for animals in need of temporary hospital support: monitoring behavior, preparing diets and feeding schedules, cleaning and disinfection of enclosures, feeding utensils, etc.; animal enrichment and husbandry training; maintenance of zoo facilities and exhibits.
- Physical requirements will include the ability to lift up to 50 lbs, stand for long periods of time, and work in a variety of indoor and outdoor environments.
- Ability to supervise, direct and mentor senior veterinary students and veterinary technician students on rotation at the zoo.
- Other duties as assigned.

**Requirements:**

- **Must possess the ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.**
- Must possess an Iowa Driver's License.
- A current rabies titer is preferred.
- A Negative TB Test is required for this position.

Please send a letter of interest and resume to: Blank Park Zoo Human Resources at [zoohr@blankparkzoo.org](mailto:zoohr@blankparkzoo.org) or by mail to Blank Park Zoo Human Resources, 7401 SW 9th St, Des Moines, IA 50315