

Job Description

Position Title: Associate Veterinarian
FLSA Status: Exempt
Reports to: Director of Veterinary Services
Date: October 2023

Organizational Overview

Save the Chimps (STC) operates one of the largest chimpanzee sanctuaries in the world. Located on 150 acres on the Treasure Coast of Florida, the Sanctuary provides high quality clinical and lifetime care and enrichment for over 220 chimpanzees rescued from research laboratories, the U.S. Air Force, the entertainment industry, and the pet trade. The work of the organization is accomplished by a team of over 80 full-time dedicated employees, an impassioned community of volunteers, and a committed, accomplished board of directors.

Job Summary

The Associate Veterinarian will join an experienced team consisting of the Director of Veterinary Services, other Associate Veterinarian(s), a Managing Certified Veterinary Technician, and three Veterinary Technicians and 1 Veterinary Assistant. Together, the team will ensure the chimpanzees receive the highest quality of healthcare, including medical and surgical care, nutrition, well-being care, diagnostics, and necropsies.

Supervisory Responsibilities

The Associate Veterinarian will report to the Director of Veterinary Services. The candidate will not have supervisory responsibilities but will act in an advisory capacity to the members of the technical team.

Essential Functions

- Provide full-time veterinary care for chimpanzees.
- Provide daily visual health monitoring of sick or injured chimpanzees.
- Perform comprehensive physical exams and diagnostics under general anesthesia.
- Assist with operant conditioning training to maximize chimpanzee cooperation with veterinary exams, treatments, and diagnostics without the use of general anesthesia.
- Evaluate diagnostic results, create treatment plans, and maintain complete medical records utilizing ZIMS medical record system.
- Assist with or perform surgical procedures.
- Provide emergency medical care as needed and share after-hour calls with other staff veterinarians.
- Evaluate quality of life, perform euthanasia and diagnostic necropsies.
- Work well in a team setting to ensure proper care is given to resident chimpanzees at all times.
- Collaborate with care and behavior staff in the development of comprehensive care plans for individual chimpanzees.
- Assist with the review and implementation of well-being programs for the sanctuary chimpanzees.
- Maintain knowledge of escape procedures and serve as medical officer in the event of an emergency code.
- Assist in training veterinary technicians and assistants.
- Assist with education of all sanctuary staff on various veterinary topics.
- Research primate diseases and cutting-edge treatments for the direct benefit of individual chimpanzees or the species.
- Assist in maintaining and expanding an active collegial network and consulting with network members as needed.
- Assist in informing the public about the sanctuary's mission and how the veterinary department contributes to completing the mission.
- Maintain USDA, FFWCC, DEA and GFAS (and other relevant accrediting bodies) standards and regulations.
- Ensure compliance with federal and state laws and regulations related to animal care, transport and treatment, and the handling of controlled substances.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

Requirements

Education, Work Experience, Licensure

- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from an AVMA-accredited university required.
- Minimum 3-5 years in full-time veterinary care required.
- While experience with great apes is preferred, candidates with excellent clinical skills that lack great ape or other large exotic species experience will be considered.

- Florida state veterinary license and USDA Category II accreditation must be obtained within 60 days of employment.

Other requirements and working conditions

- While performing the duties of this job, the employee is occasionally required to stand for long periods of time; walk; sit; use hands to finger, handle, or feel objects, tools or controls; reach with hands and arms; climb stairs; balance; stoop, kneel, crouch or crawl; talk or hear; taste or smell. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 25 pounds singly and team-lift up to 50 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by the job include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.
- Able to drive and operate golf cart or other vehicles for use on sanctuary property.
- Must be able to run and swim in the face of danger.
- Must be able to pass a pre-hire drug screen.
- STC follows and adheres to all local, state and federal regulations and CDC recommendations for COVID infection control and other public health mandates. STC currently requires all employees to be vaccinated for COVID, Hepatitis A & B, Tetanus, annual Flu and have an annual negative TB test.
- Employees must be comfortable and compliant with sanctuary protocols which may include: remote or in-person attendance, working in proximity to both humans and chimpanzees, and wearing of PPE, among other best practices in public health management.
- Tasks are regularly performed with potential for exposure to adverse conditions, such as dirt, dust, pollen, odors, wetness, humidity, rain, temperature and noise extremes, machinery, vibrations, animals/wildlife and zoonotic diseases.
- Employees must not object to unpleasant chimpanzee behaviors which include spitting of water or saliva, throwing of feces, food or other waste, and chimpanzee displays that may include banging, kicking of the mesh barrier, and loud screams or hooting.
- This position will involve working outdoors in Florida, often in hot and humid conditions and at times in inclement weather.

Save the Chimps is an equal opportunity employer and is consistent in the treatment of all applicants and employees without regard to race, color, religion, creed, gender, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected status.