

Title: Volunteer Skilled Veterinary Nurse

Location: Perth Zoo Veterinary Department



Description: The role of the Veterinary Nurse Volunteer is to support the veterinary nursing team at Perth Zoo. They will assist staff to provide the best possible care to sick and injured collection animals, wildlife, and animals in quarantine. Volunteers will assist in limited aspects of hospital care provided as directed by Perth Zoo staff.

About Perth Zoo

Perth Zoo gets hands-on in wildlife conservation, at home and beyond our borders. One simple vision inspires and directs our work – a world where diversity of species and habitats is secure. Perth Zoo – in collaboration with scientific agencies, governments, and other conservation partners – plays a part in the much bigger picture of the conservation of our natural world. We contribute directly to the preservation of species and habitat diversity while also providing visitors with the opportunity to encounter the natural world and become involved in conservation.

As a volunteer veterinary nurse, you will play a very important role within the veterinary department. By simply giving your time, skills and enthusiasm you will contribute to the success of Perth Zoo by furthering our reach and capacity in fighting extinction of endangered species, providing world-class veterinary care to our collection animals and therefore complement our veterinary team.

Key Duties of the Volunteer Role

Volunteers will:

- Assist nurses with cleaning hospital rooms and equipment used for treating animals
- Assist nurses with setting up new enclosures, dismantling closures and cleaning and disinfection of items
- Assist nurses to provide diets and approved enrichment to hospitalised animals
- Maintain a high level of cleanliness of all hospital areas including enclosures, laundry, cleaning areas, animal food prep and treatment rooms under the direction of the veterinary nurses.
- Assist with food preparation of hospitalised and quarantine animals.
- Assist in maintaining the surgery and laboratory facilities and equipment to a high standard of presentation and cleanliness.
- Effectively liaise with PZ staff and other volunteers as required.
- Be prepared to follow PZ emergency procedures as directed by staff at any time.
- Assist in maintaining stocks of consumables in treatment rooms and animal kitchen under direction of nursing team.
- Assist vet staff with wildlife patient admission as directed

Who are we Looking For?

People who:

- Are friendly, people focused and team players
- Have demonstrated commitment to the Perth Zoo Vision and Values
- Have an understanding and awareness of wildlife conservation issues and the roles of zoos
- Have a qualification in certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing or equivalent
- Are proactive, creative and solutions focused
- Are reliable
- Are able to demonstrate excellent written, verbal, and face-to-face communication skills
- Interested in wildlife conservation and wildlife and zoo veterinary medicine
- Willing to learn new skills
- Are able to undertake the physical aspects of the duties involved. This may include standing for long periods, cleaning, lots of bending over and manual handling.

Commitment

- You need to be able to commit to a roster that involves at least one day per week for a minimum of 6 months
- You must be reliable at attending shifts that you commit to. These shifts will be half or full days.
- Half day shifts are 8am to 1pm. Full day shifts are 8am to 4:30pm on weekdays

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- Each shift has a 20-minute morning tea and 40-minute lunch break for full days.

Benefits to You

Volunteers will:

- Have an opportunity to be involved in a world leading zoo-based conservation organisation.
- Be part of a team of friendly, like-minded people.
- Receive training and the opportunity to learn new skills, and to apply your learning in a meaningful way to a large variety of native and exotic species.

Training

All new volunteers will receive an initial induction which covers a tour of the working area, safety, and emergency response procedures. Additional on the job training will be provided to fully equip volunteers with undertaking their daily duties whilst at Perth Zoo.

Insurance

Volunteer veterinary nurses will be covered under Perth Zoo's personal accident insurance policy. This will cover volunteer veterinary nurses in the event of injury sustained as a result of an accident while undertaking volunteer activities for Perth Zoo. This insurance does not include cover for work-related illness such as a ringworm skin infection. Illness would only be covered if the illness were contracted from medical or surgical treatment rendered necessary following the injury. Medical expenses are payable in excess of the amount recoverable from any other source e.g., a Private Health Fund or Medicare. No cover is afforded for any pre-existing conditions. Cover afforded is subject to Fund Guidelines, Coverage Summary, Limitations and Exclusions.

Requirements

- Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing (or equivalent)
- At least one year of clinical nursing experience post certificate IV qualification. Experience with wildlife rehabilitation/zoo nursing is not essential but desirable.
- Be 18 + years of age
- Demonstrate an interest in wildlife conservation
- Be physically able to carry out work tasks allocated
- Have the ability to understand and be willing to follow instructions provided by supervising staff
- Excellent communication skills

Selection Process

All applications will be individually assessed, and eligible volunteers may be invited to attend a brief interview.

Equity & Accessibility

The Zoological Parks Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages Indigenous Australians, young people, people with disabilities, people from culturally diverse backgrounds and women to apply for positions within our agency. You will need to ensure that you are physically able to carry out the tasks required, be willing to learn, retain information and be able to adapt as the Veterinary Department.

How to Apply

Prospective volunteers must have read this document and submit a CV and cover letter/email outlining how they meet the requirements stated above. To find out more email:

- Veterinary Nurse, Volunteer Coordinator:
Maddie Reid
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