

Sea Turtle Biologist

Grade: 8

Reports to: Sea Turtle Rescue Program Manager
Job Status: Full-Time; Exempt

Department: Conservation
Approval Date: May 3, 2016

Job Summary:

Primary responsibilities are tending to the medical and husbandry needs of the animals within the SCA Sea Turtle Rescue Program, supervising volunteers and interns, and conducting behind the scene tours of the Sea Turtle Hospital.

Essential Functions:

- Adhere to the South Carolina Aquarium Policies & Procedures.
- Able and willing to be reached during non-working hours for emergencies.
- Work closely with the staff Veterinarian and STRP Manager to evaluate animals' health and environmental requirements.
- Assist in diagnostic, medical and surgical procedures.
- Administer prescribed medications and treatments to animals.
- Stock and maintain medical and hospital supplies.
- Help develop and distribute proper nutritional diets.
- Maintain proper water quality and functioning life support systems.
- Help coordinate animal releases and internal/external transports.
- Supervise Volunteers and Interns.
- Keep accurate records.
- Maintains hospital aesthetics and performs periodic renovations as needed.
- Support, conduct and help coordinate behind the scene tours of the Sea Turtle Hospital for general admission guests, pre-arranged groups and V.I.P.'s.
- Helps develop age appropriate materials for tours.
- Provides interaction with the Aquariums' guests in formal and informal settings.
- Assists with educational outreach programs for community groups, schools and other organizations.

Other Duties and Responsibilities:

- Supports the mission by participating in Aquarium sponsored programs and events on a regular basis.
- Seeks out, develops and practices cost savings strategies and improves overall efficiency.
- Communicates internally and externally, on a regular basis, developments regarding the SCA Sea Turtle Rescue Program and/or related sea turtle conservation.
- Attends and is a productive member of approved meetings, committees, workshops, conferences, etc.
- Participates in field work and research activities approved by STRP Manager

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Ability to work under pressure in emergency situations.
- Must have excellent oral and interpersonal communication skills.
- Ability to understand the mechanical equipment necessary to maintain Sea Turtle Hospital.
- Knowledge and demonstrated skill for minor plumbing and carpentry work.

Education and Experience Required:

- BS in biology, aquatic biology, a closely related field.
- Previous experience with sea turtles and/or animal rehabilitation.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office

Licenses and Certifications Required:

- Valid Driver's License with clean driving record

Supervision of others:

- Volunteers
- Interns

Physical Requirements:

Requires average walking, standing, bending, stooping, and crouching, climbing ladders, sitting, kneeling, balancing, pushing and pulling, crawling, working with tools, computer tasks and phone usage; should be able to lift/carry at least 50 lbs.; requires driving Aquarium vehicles.

Hazardous Requirements:

Average exposure to minor or severe cuts; falls; falling objects; hazards to eyesight, hearing and sense of smell; and tight spaces. Often requires use of personal protective equipment due to exposure to chemicals, hazardous materials, ozone, and handling of animals.

Working Conditions:

This position requires works in both an office environment and outdoors, sometimes in extreme weather including both hot and cold; requires weekend and late night work as needed; requires contact with customers, the general public, and outside vendors; requires carrying a cell phone and radio; requires occasional travel.

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work performed by people assigned to this classification. They are not construed to be an exhaustive list of all job duties performed by the personnel classified.

The Aquarium is an "at-will" employer, and as such, employment with the Aquarium is not for a fixed term, or definite period and may be terminated at the will of either party, with or without cause, and without prior notice.