Role:
ELEPHANT CAREGIVER

Location:
Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)
ARK 2000 Sanctuary
San Andreas, California, USA

The Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) is a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to providing sanctuary to abused, abandoned and retired captive wildlife, to enforcing the best standards of care for all captive wildlife, and to promoting public education about captive wildlife issues.

PAWS’ 2,300-acre ARK 2000 natural habitat sanctuary is located in San Andreas, California, in Calaveras County, and is home to seven elephants, as well as bears, big cats and other wild animals rescued or retired from circuses, zoos and the exotic pet trade. PAWS is licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and has been accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) since 2007.

ROLE SUMMARY:
Under supervision and working as part of a team, this position involves ensuring the care, welfare and safety of the elephants at PAWS ARK 2000 Sanctuary. This role reports to the Sanctuary Manager.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Cleaning and maintaining animal areas: removing animal excrement and food remnants; hosing, sweeping, raking and scrubbing animal areas and storage areas.
- Following protocols and instructions, preparing diets for animals; loading and unloading feed; maintaining food storage areas; monitoring food supplies.
- After completing training, providing feed and water and moving the elephants within the sanctuary. (Please note: Elephants at PAWS are handled under a system of protected contact for essential veterinary and husbandry purposes; otherwise no physical contact occurs between caregivers and elephants.)
- Observing behavior and physical condition of animals on both a day-to-day and long-term basis; noting and reporting any unusual behavior, signs of injury or illness, change in appetite, etc.
- Completing required feed, behavior and medical reports with all pertinent information.
- Reporting any abnormalities in animal behavior or welfare of any kind to the supervisor and/or veterinarian.
- Undertaking minor repairs to equipment and facilities as necessary.
- Assisting with construction and grounds maintenance projects.
- Providing any necessary assistance to the Sanctuary Manager and other senior staff members.
- All other duties as assigned.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Able to perform the demanding physical requirements of the role (including, but not limited to, lifting bales of hay, pushing heavy wheelbarrows uphill, digging, walking uphill over rough terrain, carrying heavy buckets etc.). Required to lift, push and carry at least 50 lbs.
• Working primarily outdoors, sometimes in extreme weather and very high temperatures.
• Operating safely and calmly around extremely dangerous wild animals and heavy machinery such as backhoe, skid steer, telehandler and tractors.
• Adapting to the changing needs of the animals, the sanctuary’s schedule, and other members of the team, with patience and a positive attitude.
• Excellent timekeeping and attendance.
• High degree of competence in following verbal and written instructions, and in communicating with other members of the team.
• Willing to work alone and as part of a small team.
• Compassion for animals and sympathetic to the objectives of PAWS.
• Authorized to work in the United States of America.
• Able to safely operate PAWS’ vehicles onsite. Must have a current California Driver’s License.
• Compliance with PAWS’ drug and TB testing policies.
• Previous animal husbandry experience, especially with wild animals in captivity, may be beneficial.

DETAILS:
Full time (5 days per week, 9 hour shifts including breaks and 1 hour lunch). Early morning, evening and weekend shifts may be required.
Salary: starting at $15 per hour and subject to pay increase after satisfactory completion of 90 day introductory period.
Opportunities for paid overtime.

TO APPLY:
Download and complete the Employment Application that is available on PAWS’ website at:
http://www.pawsweb.org/employment.html
Submit completed form to: info@pawsweb.org
The position will be advertised until successfully filled. We will only be responding to qualified candidates.

PAWS is an equal opportunity employer. Hiring decisions are based on merit, qualifications, and the organization’s needs.
We prohibit discrimination and harassment of any kind based on race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, pregnancy, or any other protected characteristic as outlined by federal, state, and local laws.