

Senior Big Cat Keeper Position – Full-time/Permanent

Kamo Wildlife Sanctuary is a privately owned and operated wildlife facility and is home to the largest single collection of big cats in Australasia – 19 lions, 5 tigers, 2 cheetahs and 1 leopard. The sanctuary is currently closed to the public whilst we undertake extensive structural improvements that will enable us to re-open for public tours.

We require a dedicated and experienced senior zookeeper to join our small, highly efficient and passionate team of keepers to provide for the health and welfare of our animals and to ultimately coordinate daily routines and priorities under the direction of the Collection Manager. We offer this unique opportunity to make a direct and positive impact on the lives of the animals and assist in the development of our team and sanctuary offering.

The successful candidate will be passionate about wildlife, particularly big cats, and will be highly responsible, reliable, safety conscious, able to follow set protocols and have a can-do attitude. You will have excellent observation and communication skills together with a positive and proactive approach to contributing to our continuous improvement philosophy.

Reporting directly to the Collection Manager, duties and responsibilities include:

- Team-based animal husbandry routines following set protocols.
- Environmental enrichment.
- Diet preparation and dedication to expanding felid nutritional knowledge.
- Protected contact animal training. We do not enter any occupied animal enclosures, except cheetah.
- Administer animal medications.
- Maintain health and safety procedures.
- Firearms handling.

Required Qualifications and Skills:

- Qualification in animal sciences/husbandry.

- Minimum 5 years' zoo keeping experience (animal management and welfare) with at least 2 years' experience with big cats.
- Ideally have gun experience, animal training and environmental enrichment skills/experience.
- Good understanding of felid-specific welfare and exhibit requirements.
- Staff management/development/leadership experience.
- Ability to work unsupervised on allocated projects or as part of the team.
- Excellent time management, organisational, verbal and written communication skills.
- Physically fit and healthy; prepared for some heavy lifting, to handle large volumes of raw meat and to use knives and machinery.
- Reliable, punctual, available for weekend work; willing to work outdoors in any weather.
- Comfortable working with red deer.
- New Zealand resident or have a valid New Zealand work visa.
- Current licences (or the ability to qualify for same): Firearms, clean/full NZ driver's licence, first aid certificate.

Please apply with CV and covering letter (including relevant references) via seek.

Overseas and local NZ applications welcome.

Successful applicants will be contacted for an initial telephone or Skype interview, followed by an on-site interview and 2-day practical trial.