Big Cat Keeper Position – BILLABONG ZOO, PORT MACQUARIE

Billabong Zoo is a family owned and operated zoo set on a picturesque ten acres on the outskirts of beautiful Port Macquarie. We have grown rapidly over the past ten years as our collection has diversified from primarily Australian natives to a variety of exotic species including primates and small and large carnivores. With around 100 species and over 270 animals on site, the zoo employs around 35 staff across many departments. We have an exciting opportunity for a dedicated and passionate keeper to join our team on a permanent and full time basis, working 38 hours per week. Which may include weekends and public holidays.

We are a small and dedicated team who are committed to conservation through education and strive to form connections between our guests and ambassador animals during keeper presentations, and up close encounters. This hands on approach allows our guests to develop a strong appreciation for our native and exotic wildlife and this provides the perfect opportunity for us to encourage our visitors to take action and support the work of our conservation partners and international conservation efforts.

This position is specifically for the role of a full time zookeeper on our big cat team. In this position you would be working under the instruction of our team leaders and management here at the zoo. The role would have somewhat of a specificity to working on our **Big Cat section** under our Big Cat Team Leader. This would encompass all three species of big cats (Lions, Cheetahs, and Snow Leopards). The successful candidate needs to be physically strong, fit and willing to get their hands dirty. When not needed on section or rounds are complete, keepers are required to assist in the maintenance of the zoo itself such as substrate and furnishing replacement within exhibits, and maintaining the zoo grounds including horticultural aspects of the facility.

Essential Criteria:

* Certificate 3 in Captive Animal Management (or higher/ equivalent)
* Paid experience working in the zoo industry
* Willing to work FULL TIME (38h per week)
* Available ALL days of the week as the roster will vary and you may at times not have a SET 5 days each week.
* Willing to work weekends and public holidays as required.
* Class C Drivers Licence (ability to drive manual vehicles)
* An eagerness to learn, strong ability to follow instruction and adhere to SOP’s.
* Extremely personable with excellent communication skills
* Demonstrated ability to work in a team environment effectively (references required)
* Demonstrated ability to maintain thorough records in a zoological workplace

Desirable criteria:

* Animal training and conditioning experience
* Paid experience working with Big Cats.
* Butchering carcases and preparing diets for carnivorous species in a professional setting
* Demonstrated experience in public speaking and conducting keeper talks.
* Current First Aid certificate
* Working With Children’s Certificate
* Firearms and/ or dart gun licence

To apply please email written applications to blake@billabongkoala.com.au with the subject line “Junior Big Cat Keeper position”.

Please include your resume with two work related referees, a cover letter of no more than 1 page, and no more than 1 page addressing the selection criteria. If the ad is still being advertised, the positon is still vacant. However we are eager to start someone as soon as possible. And the successful candidate will be given the option of immediate start. So if you are interested in applying. Please do so as soon as possible.

We are excited to receive your application.

Billabong Zoo Management team.