

## Looking for a career as a Zoo Veterinary Technician??

Congratulations on your decision to pursue a career as a Zoo Veterinary Technician! Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is an excellent place to begin your journey. During the 6 month program, you will gain valuable hands-on experience in zoo wildlife care, working closely with experienced veterinary technicians, zoo veterinarians and zoo keeper staff. After the program, you will be better prepared to be competitive for other zoo veterinary technician positions. Please keep in mind that you may need to move around to find the right job. This program is open to post graduate, credentialed, experienced veterinary technicians only.



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### About Colorado Springs and Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is located in Colorado's second-largest city, Colorado Springs. Nestled along the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains, and in the shadow of Pikes Peak, Colorado Springs offers all of the [resources](#) and [culture](#) of a much larger city, but with a [competitive cost of living](#). [Outdoor adventure](#) is one of the best features of the area, with 375 miles of trails, 150+ parks and a climate that typically provides

300 days of sunshine per year. U.S. News and World Report named Colorado Springs the [#1 Most Desirable Place to Live](#) and the [#2 Best Place to Live](#) in the U.S. for 2022-2023. Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is consistently ranked in the top 10 zoos in North America, and was named #3 Best Zoo in the 2022 USA TODAY 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards. For more enticing reasons to live and work in Colorado Springs, [dive in here](#). Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, America's mountain zoo at an elevation of 6,714 feet above sea level, offers comprehensive education programs, exciting conservation efforts and truly fantastic animal experiences. It is Cheyenne Mountain Zoo's goal to help guests fall in love with animals and nature, and take action to protect them. Since 2008, CMZoo's Quarters for Conservation program has raised more \$4 million dedicated to frontline conservation efforts around the world. Of the more than 235 zoos and aquariums accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is one of just a few operating without tax support. Cheyenne Mountain Zoo depends on admissions, membership dues, special event attendance and donations for funding.

## About this Program

- **Field and in-hospital immobilizations** often include opportunities for intubation and anesthetic monitoring, IV catheter placement and maintenance of patient fluids, phlebotomy, drug administration, and diagnostic imaging. Procedure set-up, break-down, and post-procedure cleaning are also a part of each immobilization.
- **In-house laboratory work.** Running fecal parasite checks, performing manual WBC counts and differentials on birds and reptiles, using in-house lab machines, and prepping lab samples for send out to referral labs.
- **Daily duties** include daily upkeep and cleaning of the veterinary hospital, record keeping using ZIMS, filling and delivering prescriptions, care for hospitalized patients including the occasional neonate, wrapping and sterilizing packs, other duties as assigned by staff veterinarians and veterinary technicians.
- **Training opportunities** with our zookeeper staff may include participation in voluntary blood collection & plasma banking, voluntary radiographs, awake blood pressure measurements, vaccine/drug administration, and physical exams, all using trained behaviors.



## Eligibility requirements

- Graduate of an AVMA accredited veterinary technology program.
- Must have work experience as a full time licensed technician and a strong knowledge of veterinary principles, minimum of 2 years clinical experience required.
- Must provide a copy of a valid driver's license and proof of valid health insurance.
- Motivated, able to work well alone and in teams, eager to learn new skills and make the most of their program experience.
- Must be able to lift 50 lbs., climb in and out of the vet van, remain bending/standing/stooping for long periods of time, and work in adverse weather conditions.
- Must be legally able to work in the United States (US Citizen, Permanent Resident, or hold an Employment Authorization Document)

### **Program schedule**

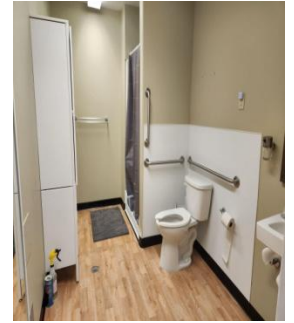
- Candidates will be required to work Friday- Monday and be flexible with other days in case coverage is needed. A typical work week is 32-40 hours per week, from 8:15-5:15 pm with a 1 hour lunch. You would know well in advance of scheduling changes.
- Candidates will have a modified schedule for the first 2 weeks to train with the staff veterinary technicians. The training weeks will be Monday – Friday, from the hours of 8:15 am – 5:15 pm.
- Once fully trained and oriented, you may be expected to serve as the only veterinary technician with one of our veterinarians on occasion.
- Candidates may obtain outside employment but need to remain flexible for scheduling changes. as their primary job. Other employment outside the Organization must not interfere with your program’s commitments, or involve a conflict of interest, or give that appearance. Local veterinary relief work may be an option.
- Candidates must have a personal vehicle for this program.

### **Compensation and Benefits**

- Compensation will be a stipend of \$1200 at the end of each month.
- As some weeks the post-graduate will not be working a full time schedule, CMZoo veterinary technicians may be willing to allow the post-graduate to flex/shift work and personal days with prior approval. Excessive flexing/shifting out of the primary Friday-Monday schedule is prohibited.
- Uniform shirts, outerwear and name tags will be provided. Full dress code for CMZoo (“Zoo Crisp”) will be provided before the program begins. Uniforms are returned clean at the end of the program.
- Candidates will be required to provide proof of personal health insurance.
- No other benefits will be provided.

### **Housing**

- Housing is provided on zoo grounds. There is a 2 bed/1 bath veterinary student/veterinary technician post-graduate apartment within a quick 3 minute walk from the veterinary hospital.
- A rental agreement will be provided and needs to be signed before taking occupancy to cover liability concerns, expectations with occupancy, and state of the bedroom and common space upon leaving.
- Candidates will be sharing the apartment with rotating 4th year clinical veterinary externs, they are usually here from 2- 4 weeks and may be of any gender. They will have undergone a criminal background check before arriving.
- Apartment is a full kitchen including cookware, a stocked bathroom with towels, and the bedrooms have full linens. The apartment has heating and a window AC unit, a full-sized fridge, stove and microwave as well as a few other kitchen appliances. Groceries are your own responsibility.
- No guests will be allowed unless there is no vet extern student and receiving prior approval from the supervisor. Guests would only be allowed to stay a maximum of 2 consecutive nights.
- No pets allowed.
- Living off-grounds is allowed, but will not be financially provided for.



## **Required Application Materials**

- To apply for this position, please send a resume and letter of interest to [vetstaff@cmzoo.org](mailto:vetstaff@cmzoo.org), addressed to Brenda Cordova and DeeAnn Wilfong.
- Three references must also be submitted.
- Indicate if wanting the program starting May-Oct 2023 or Nov 2023- April 2024.
- Applications close on March 31, 2023
- Candidates will be notified via email by April 14, 2023
- The first program start date will be May 15, 2023 through October 30, 2023.
- The second program will be from November 6, 2023 through April 22, 2024.
- If selected, there is a \$35 background check fee.
- Interview process will include a Zoom interview with veterinary staff members.
- Final acceptance into this program is contingent upon the background check.
- TB testing within 2 months of starting and proof of rabies vaccination within the past 5 years or of a protective titer is required before starting.
- Accepted candidates must provide proof of personal health insurance before starting.

**Note: Cheyenne Mountain Zoo reserves the right to discontinue an individual's program at any time if the candidate does not follow rules/guidelines.**