

Education Animal Handling Policy

Overview

Animal handling is a very exciting volunteer opportunity. However, with this exciting opportunity comes much responsibility. This is a limited activity that must be met with approval of the Volunteer Coordinator and Director of Education. As an animal handler, take pride in what you are able to do by following the “Education Animal Handling Policies” and respecting the animals you are trained to handle. The following are general guidelines that all animal handlers must abide by.

Training

Training of Animal Handlers will consist of multiple observed handling sessions and a sign off by Volunteer, Animal Keeper, Volunteer Coordinator and/or Director of Education. Every potential Animal Handler will go through an initial training, which will cover the location of supplies and a basic overview of handling the individual species being trained on at the time. Following the initial training, potential Animal Handlers must complete an indicated number of supervised handling sessions. The number of sessions required per animal is determined by the handling level assigned to each animal. Once completion of required supervised handling sessions, potential Animal Handlers must be signed off by all parties indicated at the bottom of the handling guidelines for each animal. Volunteers are asked to sign off on themselves to verify they feel comfortable with their new position as Animal Handler. Staff retains the right to deny animal handling opportunities or increase the number of required handling sessions due to animal health, behavior and overall safety concerns for handlers, zoo guests and/or the animal.

Handling Levels

<u>Level</u>	<u>Animal</u>	<u>Required Sessions</u>
Level 1:	Madagascar Hissing Cockroach	3
	African Giant Millipede	3
	Red-footed Tortoise	3
	Desert Tortoise	3
	Hinge-back Tortoise	3
	Ferret	3
Level 2:	Rat	4
	African Hedgehog	4
	Inland Bearded Dragon	4
	White’s Tree Frog	4
Level 3:	Sugar Gliders	6
	Virginia Opossums	6
	Snakes	6
Level 4:	All Bird Species	Staff Discretion Only
	Pygmy Goat	Staff Discretion Only

Interested Volunteers must contact the Volunteer Coordinator or Director of Education to schedule times for handling sessions.