

## ANIMAL CARETAKER

### DEFINITION

Attends farm animals and wildlife.

### TYPICAL DUTIES

Attends, feeds, and waters farm animals, such as horses, pigs, sheep, goats, rabbits, turkeys, geese, ducks, tortoises, peafowls, and chickens,.

Cleans and disinfects pens, stalls, and poultry coops, including floors and drinking fountains.

Inspects animals for general physical condition and symptoms of disease and may apply simple veterinary treatment.

Confers with teachers regarding their orders for animal specimens.

Builds and sets up temporary and permanent animal and poultry shelters and feed bins at schools.

Repairs and maintains cages and enclosures at the science site.

Provides information to teachers and students regarding the proper care of animals.

Directs the movement of visitors through animal exhibits.

Gathers and handles eggs.

Milks goats.

Operates a brooder.

Keeps records of food used.

May load and drive a pickup truck to deliver science kits, animal feed, and animals to schools for instructional purposes.

May help teachers set up cages in the classroom.

May assist in assembling of instructional science kits.

Performs related duties as assigned.

### DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS AMONG RELATED CLASSES

An Animal Caretaker grooms, feeds, waters, and attends farm animals at the school.

### SUPERVISION

General supervision is received from a certificated employee. No supervision is exercised.

### CLASS QUALIFICATIONS

#### Knowledge of:

Habits, diseases, and food and water needs of farm animals and wildlife  
Simple veterinary care  
Brooder operation  
Proper methods of handling a variety of animals

Ability to:

Handle, move, and/or transport all types of animals safely  
Recognize symptoms of diseases of farm animals and wildlife  
Use small hand tools and animal maintenance equipment  
Keep records and prepare simple reports  
Trim hooves, dehorn animals, and neuter young animals  
Write neatly and legibly

Special Physical Requirements:

Safely lift and carry objects that weigh up to 65 pounds  
Manual dexterity as required to milk goats

ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

Graduation from high school or evidence of equivalent educational proficiency.

Experience:

Two years of experience in caring for farm animals or wildlife.

Special:

A valid California Driver License.

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JPK<sup>2</sup>