

[Redacted]

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To Whom It May Concern:

You are looking for an experienced and passionate animal caretaker to fill your [Redacted] role. I believe that I am a perfect fit for that position, and if hired will exceed your expectations. My experience working with elephants and other large mammals in complicated, multifaceted exhibit setups would make me a significant asset to [Redacted] Zoo & Aquarium.

I have been involved in the zoo world since 2004, and since graduating college in 2012, I have worked with a variety of large mammals at the [Redacted] Zoo. Starting out in [Redacted], I cared for large hoofstock in our "[Redacted]" section. Several years ago, I joined our elephant team, helping to manage a herd of ten African elephants in a protected contact environment. Beyond basic husbandry, in both sections I have had the opportunity to participate in animal introductions, operant conditioning training, medical procedures, routine medical care including elephant foot care, vaccinations, and blood draws, and facility maintenance and improvement.

My time in [Redacted] has also allowed me to be a part of several special and unique projects, experiences which I believe will make an excellent fit for the [Redacted] position. First, while in our [Redacted] section, I helped with the process of developing and maintaining a mixed species program with elephant, giraffe, smaller hoofstock, and birds. This program incorporates a flex habitat design where gates can be opened between two habitats and animals integrated for specific intervals (and recalled come separation time).

Second, during my time as an elephant keeper, I have been part of an operation that brought a herd of rescued elephants from Swaziland to [Redacted], as well as the subsequent effort to integrate the rescued elephants into our pre-existing herd. The nature of this integration effort has meant that it is not uncommon to have four or more subgroups of elephants being managed within the elephant section in a single day. Both this and the mixed species program require extreme attention to detail, communication within a team (or between teams) of animal care staff, and the continual monitoring of animal location and behavior. I know that my experience with these projects has prepared me well to handle the unique, complicated management of a flex habitat complex like that found in the [Redacted] area.

As a [Redacted] native, I grew up visiting [Redacted] and I know firsthand what an incredible institution it is. I am excited by the opportunity to join your team, and to continue to expand my knowledge of animal care to some species with which I have not previously worked. My references will confirm that I am hardworking, passionate, responsible, and a fast learner. I appreciate your consideration of my resume, and I welcome a chance to further present my qualifications through a phone, Skype, or in-person interview.

[Redacted]

[Redacted], Senior Keeper (Elephants), [Redacted] Zoo