



Position - Animal Husbandry Assistant

We are hiring 1-2 animal husbandry assistants! All of the resident animals at Telos Exotics and Hedgehog Precision live with us in our home. Most care and maintenance is currently done by Nathan and myself, and as our businesses grow we're ready to add some extra hands to ensure we both have time left in the day for admin needs and educational opportunities (and occasional breaks, we hope!). This is a great opportunity for high school students who would like a flexible part-time job.

~ Kimberly & Nathan Halzen

About Us

Hedgehog Precision is a specialty hedgehog food and supply company. We focus on developing products that consider their natural biology and behavior to improve their welfare in captivity. This includes lots of bugs - insect-based food, insect-based treats, insect-based enrichment. The natural diet of hedgehogs is bugs!

Telos Exotics is the name of our small USDA licensed, in-home pet supply business and breeding programs for select species. We raise a variety of pet species as well as feeder species. The term "telos" refers to the inherent nature of an animal - what is it that makes a hedgehog, a hedgehog? What is a fulfilling life to a frog, or a snake, or a cockroach? This is the foundation to considering each animal's needs to keep them happy and healthy. We focus on improving welfare through naturalistic enclosures, species-appropriate enrichment, reduced stress handling, and more.

Location

Our home, near 84th and L St. in Omaha, NE.

Pay

Starts between \$12-16/hr based on experience and tasks (higher pay for those assisting with cage and wheel cleaning for our mammals). Payroll runs every 2 weeks.

Hours

1-3 shifts per week, 1-4hr per shift depending on your preferred tasks and what needs done. We'd like each assistant to be able to commit to at least 2hr/wk, but no more than 8hr/wk.

Flexible shifts around your schedule between 10am and 8pm, 7 days a week.

Typical Tasks

(no one person is expected to be comfortable with all animals/tasks)

- Provide routine care and recordkeeping for our **reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates**, including feeding, testing moisture and light levels, misting enclosures, weighing animals, refilling water reservoirs, wiping down glass doors, etc.
- Provide routine care to our **house and nursery plants** - testing moisture levels, watering, fertilizing.
- **Mammal husbandry** - washing wheels, weighing animals, cleaning and sanitizing enclosures, running laundry, adding various enrichment items. Involves indoor and outdoor (yard) work.
- **Hedgehog socialization** - handling our hedgehogs, especially babies, so they have the chance to interact with a variety of people.

- **General facility maintenance** - sorting recycling, paper shredding, sweeping/vacuuming, wiping down surfaces, filling water dispensers.
- **Diet prep** - sorting, washing, chopping fruits and veggies. Mixing simple fresh food diets. Often involves rogue annoying fruit flies.

Possible Additional Tasks

- Assisting at our booths at events and expos.
- “Zoo sitting” while we are traveling.
- Getting photo/video content for education and promotion.
- Writing training reference materials and care instructions.

Requirements

Physical

- 1-3 steps in and out of home, use of a residential staircase, bending and lifting up to 50lbs occasionally, updating written and digital records. Getting onto and up off the floor. Exposure to the sounds and smells of animals all doing their own thing. Allergy consideration - exposure to cats and dogs.

Educational

- No educational requirements, just a willingness to learn and follow instructions!

General

- An appreciation for animals of all shapes and sizes, including bugs. You don’t have to like them or interact with them, but you do need to respect them in order to thrive here.
- Tolerance for barking dogs and willingness to engage with them to show that you’re not a scary person. We have two small resident dogs, and foster/boarding pups in and out frequently. (we do our very best to facilitate minimal barking because it’s annoying/overstimulating - but it is something that will happen, especially at first)
- Respect and consideration that this is our private home. Taking photos/video here is only with permission.
- Adherence to our sanitation protocols for biosecurity and the safety of you and our animals.

How to Apply

If you’re interested in assisting us, please send the items below to our email address (telos.exotics@gmail.com) no later than October 27th, 2023 for consideration. We will screen candidates over email before scheduling select interviews at our home.

- Your resume (.pdf attachment preferred)
- A brief description of your experience in animal husbandry
- A brief description of why you would like to work with us
- A brief description of your typical availability throughout the week

Thank you! You are always welcome to explore our websites and social media accounts to learn more about us and what we do. You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok.



www.hedgehogprecision.com



www.telos-exotics.com