Reece Theakston

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City of Virginia Beach,

Virginia Beach, VA

Dear City of Virginia Beach,

I recently discovered the position of Exhibit Technician II on indeed.com. I am extremely excited to have found this opportunity as it has always been a dream of mine to begin a career in marine biology. Ever since I was a child, I’ve had a passion about marine biology that has continuously grown through documentaries, trips to the beach, and animal conservation research done at Longwood University.

I believe that I am an excellent fit for this company due to the experience I have gained as a behavioral observation intern at the Virginia Zoo in Norfolk, VA where I monitored 28 species using ethograms on the zoo monitor app. This app takes behavioral, locational, and temporal data and provides maps and graphs to help gain another level of understanding to provide the animals better living conditions and enrichment. Also, while I interned at the zoo, I used that data and individual research to create enrichment projects for a Binturong, Siamese crocodile, and miniature Zebu. Another experience that will help me in this position is the knowledge I gained from my animal behavior class and the research project I designed with two other students. This research project tested environmental stimuli on *Anolis carolinensis* commonly known as green anoles to see which stimuli caused a response in color change. Seven anoles were housed in two tanks where misting (weather simulation), addition and removal of lights (day/ night cycles), and predatory calls (response to predators) were done to or around the anoles. The main conclusion of the project was that the main purposes of color change were stress responses and as a form of camouflage. The skills required to complete the experiment include animal husbandry, research on *Anolis carolinensis*, experimental design, scientific writing of lab reports, communicating data to peers, and presenting the overall experiment and conclusions.

Since 2014 to present I have worked full time at a daycare as a classroom teacher where I oversee a classroom of 10 to 20 kids. Typically, I oversee the three to four-year-old classroom, but I have worked in every classroom ranging from the infant room to the 10 to 12-year-old room. As my time as a classroom teacher I have developed skill in classroom behavior management, time management, daily activity plans, conflict resolution, and communicating to my employers and the children’s parents. It is with these skills combined with the skills mentioned above that would make me a perfect candidate for the position.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Reece Theakston