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Steinhart Aquarium

Animal Health Department and Water
Quality Laboratory

During my time as Veterinarian at the San Francisco Zoo I have known and worked closely with Gail for over 18 yrs and am very familiar with her skills and motivations. My first comments are top rate, very motivated and skilled.

As Senior Veterinary Technician at the Zoo one of Gail's responsibilities is pathogen surveillance of the entire animal collection. This involves fecal surveillance of protozoan and metazoan pathogens through in-house microscopic exams as well as bacterial pathogens specifically salmonella and campylobacter through in-house culturing techniques. Her desire and dedication to be the best at what she does have always, and continues to impress me. Without Gail's assistance I would have not been able to get a handle on the pathogens which could cause illness in the collection animals as well as the potential zoonotic threat some the animals imposed on the keeper staff.

Gail's insight in animal behavior has assisted me in determining symptoms of illness and disease in a timely manner so that appropriate treatments could be instituted.

Besides her invaluable assistance to me in caring for the animal collection at the Zoo, Gail has an extraordinary skill set in hand rearing at times when young animals have been rejected by their mothers. I have worked with Gail on numerous hand rearing projects; lion cubs, siamang infant, kangaroo joeys, black rhino, black buck, bison, giraffe, muskox calves, penguins chicks to name a few. The successful outcome of these projects are owed to Gail's patience, attention detail, consistent approach, accurate record keeping, able to recognize problems and adapt. Gail has also been available and sought after by multiple zoos within the US as well as internationally asking for her assistance with hand rearing projects of their own.

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