



# Animal Care Internship

## Position Description

### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Cleaning and disinfecting animal enclosures.
- Preparation of animal diets.
- Feeding and watering animals.
- Animal observations and record keeping.
- Administering supplements and/or medications.
- Providing behavioral enrichments.
- General exhibit maintenance.
- General housekeeping tasks such as sweeping, dishes, laundry, restocking supplies, etc.
- Supervising Zoo Teens and working alongside adult volunteers.
- Interacting with zoo visitors as immersion lot attendant, keeper chat presenter, or general questions.
- Learn about the zoo's animals through discussions with keepers, personal observations, and researching.
- Ability to make public speaking presentations, and effectively communicate orally and in writing with co-workers, other recreation organizations, program participants, and the public, including being sensitive to professional ethics, gender, cultural diversities, and disabilities.
- Other duties as assigned.

### **Physical Effort:**

Internships are very physical and demanding. Interns perform duties indoors and outdoors involving the handling of a variety of animals with different temperaments, exposure to animal bites and zoonotic diseases, dust, dirt, adverse and extreme weather conditions, cleaning chemicals, and power tools for which safety precautions must always be followed to avoid injury to self or others.

Interns must be able to:

- Climb ladders/stairs.
- Lift and carry animal crates/animals/feed weighing 50 lbs.
- Handle a hose for cleaning.
- Load and operate wheelbarrows.
- Be agile and flexible to maneuver around animals within an exhibit/holding area.
- Work in and tolerate various and/or extreme weather conditions.
- Able to tolerate hay, dust, and animal hair/dander.

### **Qualifications:**

- Minimum 2.5 GPA.
- Basic biological knowledge and a respect for wild animals.
- Ability to work with minimal supervision and support a strong team environment.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills.
- Ability to follow verbal and written instructions.
- Positive attitude, willingness to learn, and demonstrated initiative.
- Ability to have reliable transportation to and from the zoo.
- Ability to work weekends, holidays, and evenings as assigned.
- Proof of negative TB test and/or tetanus vaccination (if required).
- Uniform shirts are provided by the Zoo; however uniform pants and shoes must be provided by intern.

**Internships are experience-based and unpaid. Housing and transportation are the responsibility of the intern.**