

# Veterinary Conservation Research Internship: Houston Toads

The Houston Zoo is seeking a **Veterinary Student Intern for our Houston Toad Conservation Program**. This is an opportunity to work with one of the most endangered amphibians in the United States through a unique recovery partnership with the Zoo's herpetology department, veterinary department, field partners, and USFWS. More information about the zoo's efforts in saving the Houston toad can be found on our [website](#).

The successful candidate will participate in the husbandry and medical care of captive Houston toads and work with zoo veterinarians and conservation biologists to design, implement, and complete a research project relating to the Houston toad recovery program.

## AGENDA

- Routine husbandry of Houston toads including feeding, cleaning, and record keeping to get baseline knowledge of husbandry and toad biology.
- Pathology, including: gross necropsy, sample collection, report writing, histopathology review.
- Participate in continuing education opportunities including zoo journal club meetings, mentor topics, and possible local veterinary CE.
- Potential participation in hormone-assisted captive propagation program.
- Possible opportunities for shadowing the veterinarians on clinical zoo rounds.
- Once familiarized with program, selection of a research project of interest, design and implementation of project.
  - Potential project topics include but are not limited to pathology and disease surveillance/reporting, reproduction, or standardized health assessments of captive Houston toads.
  - Mentorship and supervision will be available; the success of the research project will be dependent primarily on the Houston Toad Veterinary Intern.
  - A motivated intern with a solid project has the potential to turn this research into a peer-reviewed publication.

## SCHEDULE

This is a full-time summer internship for the months of May-August, though exact start and finish dates are negotiable. Hours will generally be from 7 to 4 pm, 5 days a week. Hours may vary throughout the internship depending on the nature of the research project.

## PHYSICAL EFFORT AND ENVIRONMENT

This position involves a lot of walking and lifting. Time outdoors can be expected, in all different weather conditions including heat, humidity, rain, cold, or dust. It may also involve considerable physical exertion such as climbing, reaching, assuming awkward positions, repetitive motions, and lifting and/or moving of heavy objects (up to 60 pounds) on a regular basis.

## COMPENSATION

There is no compensation for this position. Cost of supplies related to research project will be covered by the Houston Zoo. The intern must provide his or her own transportation to and from the zoo as well as housing.

## REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants should have completed one to two years of veterinary education and have an interest in non-domestic or zoo animal medicine and conservation

- Pay a one-time \$67 fee to offset the cost of your on-boarding and uniform if accepted into the internship program (this cost may be higher for international applicants)
- A negative TB test must be provided and valid for the entire internship
- *Minimum* of 200 hours during summer months (hour breakdown per week can be discussed)
- Weekly meetings with veterinarian Dr. Maryanne Tociłowski to go over progress, trouble shoot, re-direct, etc.
- Mid-term and final evaluations
- Research project and presentation to staff with potential for publication

To apply, visit <https://www.houstonzoo.org/make-memories/adults/internships/> and complete an application for the Vet Student Internship. For additional information, contact Dr. Maryanne Tociłowski, Dipl. ACZM, Staff Veterinarian at the Houston Zoo ([mtocidłowski@houstonzoo.org](mailto:mtocidłowski@houstonzoo.org)). Applications are due by **March 1, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. CST.**

Application questions can be directed to [volunteer@houstonzoo.org](mailto:volunteer@houstonzoo.org).