



Houston Zoo

Animal Care Internship Descriptions & Requirements

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****Not all sections offer internships in each fall, spring, and summer session. Refer to the choices listed under "Areas of Interest" on the actual application to see which internships are available currently.***

TO APPLY

Internships are open to those 18 and older who are currently enrolled in college or are within one year of post-education graduation at application due date.

To be considered, please visit our website at www.houstonzoo.org/internship. Application timelines and internship dates are posted online. **Regarding internship dates, individual schedules will fall between posted dates and may not necessarily last a full three months.*

Applicants must submit a resume, cover letter, and letter of recommendation as part of their online application. *Please note that if your school/scholarship requires any proof, credit, or additional projects for your internship, this must be discussed during the interview and before accepting a potential offer.*

For further information and inquiries, please contact the Volunteer Office at 713-533-6513 or via email at volunteer@houstonzoo.org.

ABOUT THE ZOO & OUR INTERNSHIPS

The Houston Zoo has over 6,000 permanent residents (our animals) for whom we provide housing, meals, medical care, and training. The Zoo also serves more than 2.5 million guests each year who come to experience our incredible variety of animals and ecosystems, as well as attend special private and public events and entertainment. The Zoo aspires to connect communities with animals, inspiring action to save wildlife.

Extensive training plans will be provided specific to each department to ensure internships remain valuable to students and developing professionals. Interns will work alongside keepers to cultivate important professional relationships and gain valuable hands-on experience. Further networking and continuing education opportunities will be available in addition to learning more about Zoo conservation initiatives worldwide.

AMBASSADOR ANIMAL INTERNSHIP

The Houston Zoo is offering opportunities to participate in unpaid internships with our Ambassador Animals! The Ambassador Animal collection is based out of the John P. McGovern Children's Zoo and includes a diverse collection of birds, mammals, reptiles, invertebrates, and amphibians.

During this internship, interns will experience the day to day husbandry of Ambassador Animals. In addition to that, interns will deliver keeper chats, handle animals, learn and implement basic operant conditioning techniques, and provide animal enrichment.

Candidates for this position should be self-motivated, dependable, positive, and show an interest in pursuing a career in animal care management. The internship is designed to provide students the opportunity to learn the following:

- Diet preparation and feeding
- Proper nutrition and care for a variety of species
- Animal handling
- The fundamentals of modern animal training techniques
- Maintaining of animal exhibits and holding areas according to AZA regulations
- Observing and recording animal condition, social behaviors, and responses
- Designing and constructing of enrichment and related evaluations
- Positive and educational interaction with Zoo guests
- Development and implementation of public speaking skills through the development of keeper chats

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 50 pounds) on a regular basis. Due to the nature of this environment, interns will have some public contact requiring considerable communication skills. Interns can expect to present keeper chats for the public during the internship.

REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:

- Ability to multi-task and excel in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work independently while being an important part of a team
- Exhibit strong professionalism and communication skills
- Possess a desire to gain experience and knowledge working in a husbandry-related field
- Some knowledge of animal husbandry is preferred but not required
- Interns are required to complete a minimum 240-hour commitment; internship can go up to 400 hours if amenable to both parties.
- This internship is structured for a minimum of 24 hours/week. This is usually scheduled in 8-hour shifts per week (minimum 3 days/week, no more than 5 days/week). Applicants must be able to work any day of the week, with at least one of the days being a weekend day.
 - Shift times are 6:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.
- Must provide a current negative TB test result prior to starting date
- Compose and present an educational presentation at the end of internship
- Previous experience volunteering or working in an animal related field is a plus
- Coursework in biology or zoology-related field is preferred but not required

AQUARIUM INTERNSHIP

The Houston Zoo is offering students opportunities to participate in unpaid internships with our Kipp Aquarium! Interns will assist in the care of all the animals in the aquarium for both salt water and fresh water exhibits. The collection includes jellyfish, piranhas, sharks, turtles, seahorse, coral and more. From exhibit maintenance to enrichment, this position will give real world experience in the field of zoo keeping. In addition to learning duties, interns will gain knowledge of anatomy, behavior, reproduction, and the conservation status of each species.

Candidates for this position should be self-motivated, dependable, positive, and show an interest in pursuing a career in animal care management. The internship is designed to provide students the opportunity to learn the following:

- Diet preparation and feeding
- Proper nutritional and care for a variety of aquatic species
- Maintaining of animal exhibits and holding areas according to AZA regulations
- Water sampling and chemistry
- Observing and recording animal condition, behaviors, and responses
- Design and construct of enrichment and assessment
- Positive and educational interaction with Zoo guests

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 25 pounds) on a regular basis. Due to the nature of this environment, interns will have some public contact requiring considerable communication skills. Interns can expect to present keeper chats for the public towards the end of the internship.

REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:

- Ability to multi-task and excel in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work independently while being an important part of a team
- Exhibit strong professionalism and communication skills
- Possess a desire to gain experience and knowledge working with aquatic animals
- Some knowledge of marine biology is preferred but not required
- Interns are required to complete a minimum of 200 hours. Scheduling in this section typically offers the flexibility of working 2-5 days/week to accomplish this time commitment. Shifts are 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Expected availability is 7 days/week but may vary based on staffing
- Compose and present an educational presentation at the end of internship
- Coursework in biology or zoology-related field is preferred

SPECIAL NOTE:

Unpaid internships in the aquarium are infrequently available, however, please monitor <http://www.houstonzoo.org/careers/> for any paid opportunities funded by grants.

BIRDS INTERNSHIP

The Houston Zoo is offering opportunities to participate in unpaid internships in the Bird Department! Students will shadow and assist Zoo staff in the care of one of the largest zoological collections of birds the United States. The Houston Zoo is home to over 165 species of birds, with more than 800 individual animals. This includes flamingos, cassowaries, shoebill storks, kookaburra, macaws, hornbills, and other endangered species. From learning about exhibit maintenance to enrichment and training of the animals, this position will give real world experience in the field of zoo keeping. In addition to learning each routine's duties, interns will gain knowledge of anatomy, behavior, and the conservation status of each species.

Candidates for this position should be self-motivated, dependable, positive, and show an interest in pursuing a career in animal care management or conservation of birds. The internship is designed to provide students the opportunity to learn the following:

- Diet preparation and feeding
- Proper nutrition and care for a variety of bird species
- Maintaining of animal exhibits and holding areas (perching, trimming, propping, etc.) according to AZA regulations
- Observing and recording animal conditions, social behaviors, and responses
- Observing vet care and treatments
- Designing and constructing of enrichment and evaluations
- Positive and educational interaction with Zoo guests

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 25 pounds) on a regular basis. Due to the nature of this environment, interns will have some public contact requiring considerable communication skills. Interns can expect to present keeper chats for the public towards the end of the internship.

REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:

- Ability to multi-task and excel in a fast-paced environment
 - Ability to work independently while being an important part of a team
 - Exhibit strong professionalism and communication skills
 - Possess a desire to gain experience and knowledge working with birds
 - Some knowledge of husbandry is preferred but not required
- Interns are required to complete approximately 350 hours at a commitment of 27 hours/week. This can be accomplished in three, 9 hour shifts per week, for 13 weeks. Applicants must be able to work any day of the week, including weekends. Shift times are 7 a.m. until 4 p.m.
- Candidates do not need previous husbandry experience but working at other animal facilities is a plus
 - Coursework in biology or zoology-related field is preferred but not required
 - Compose and present an educational presentation at the end of internship

CARNIVORE INTERNSHIP

The Houston Zoo is offering an unpaid internship in the Carnivore Department! Students will shadow and assist Zoo staff in the care of the entire Carnivores' collection including lions, tigers, clouded leopards, jaguars, fossa, cheetahs, cougars, and bears. From exhibit maintenance to enrichment and training of the animals, this position will give real world experience in the field of zoo keeping. In addition to learning duties, interns will gain knowledge of anatomy, behavior, reproduction, and the conservation status of each species.

Candidates for this position should be self-motivated, dependable, positive, and show an interest in pursuing a career in animal care management or conservation of wild cats, bears, wild dogs and other carnivores. The internship is designed to provide students the opportunity to learn the following:

- Diet preparation and feeding
- Proper nutrition and care for a variety of carnivorous species
- Maintaining of animal exhibits and holding areas according to AZA regulations
- Observing and recording animal condition, social behaviors, and responses
- Assisting with vet care and treatments
- Designing and constructing of enrichment and related evaluations
- Positive and educational interaction with zoo guests

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 25 pounds) on a regular basis. Due to the nature of this environment, interns will have some public contact requiring considerable communication skills. Interns can expect to present keeper chats for the public towards the end of the internship.

REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:

- Ability to multi-task and excel in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work independently while being an important part of a team
- Exhibit strong professionalism and communication skills
- Possess a desire to gain experience and knowledge working with wild cats and carnivores
- Interns will work from 6:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., three days/week to fulfill a 240-hour commitment
- Quizzes throughout internship will test knowledge gained
- Candidates do not need previous husbandry experience but working at other animal facilities is a plus
- Coursework in biology or zoology-related field is preferred but not required
- Compose and present an educational presentation at the end of internship

CHILDREN'S ZOO INTERNSHIP

The Houston Zoo is offering opportunities to participate in unpaid internships in the John P. McGovern Children's Zoo! The Children's Zoo has a large and diverse collection of birds, mammals, reptiles, invertebrates, amphibians and fish. Many animals housed with the Children's Zoo are ambassador animals and participate in animal handling for Zoo educational programs.

Candidates for this position should be self-motivated, dependable, positive, and show an interest in pursuing a career in animal care management. The internship is designed to provide students the opportunity to learn the following:

- Diet preparation and feeding
- Proper nutrition and care for a variety of species
- Animal handling
- Maintaining of animal exhibits and holding areas according to AZA regulations
- Observing and recording animal condition, social behaviors, and responses
- Designing and constructing of enrichment and related evaluations
- Positive and educational interaction with zoo guests

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 50 pounds) on a regular basis. Due to the nature of this environment, interns will have some public contact requiring considerable communication skills. Interns can expect to present keeper chats for the public during the internship.

REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:

- Ability to multi-task and excel in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work independently while being an important part of a team
- Exhibit strong professionalism and communication skills
- Possess a desire to gain experience and knowledge working in a husbandry-related field
- Some knowledge of animal husbandry is preferred but not required
- Interns are required to complete a minimum 240-hour commitment; internship can go up to 400 hours if amenable to both parties.
 - This internship is structured for a minimum of 24 hours/week. This is usually scheduled in 8-hour shifts per week (minimum 3 days/week, no more than 5 days/week). Applicants must be able to work any day of the week, with at least one of the days being a weekend day.
 - Shift times are 6:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.
- Must provide a current negative TB test result prior to starting date
- Previous experience volunteering or working in an animal related field is a plus
- Coursework in biology or zoology-related field is preferred but not required
- Compose and present an educational presentation at the end of internship

ELEPHANTS INTERNSHIP

The Houston Zoo is offering an opportunity to participate in an unpaid internship in the Elephant Department! Interns will assist in the care of our eight elephants, including one calf. From barn and exhibit maintenance to enrichment and training of the animals, this position will give real world experience in the field of zoo animal keeping. In addition to learning daily duties, interns will gain knowledge of anatomy, behavior, and the conservation status of this species.

Candidates for this position should be self-motivated, dependable, positive, and show an interest in pursuing a career in animal care management or conservation of elephants. The internship is designed to provide students the opportunity to learn the following:

- Diet preparation and feeding
- Proper nutrition and care for Asian elephants
- Maintaining of animal exhibits and holding areas according to AZA regulations
- Observing and recording animal conditions, social behaviors, and responses
- Designing and constructing of enrichment and related evaluations
- Positive and educational interaction with Zoo guests

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 25 pounds) on a regular basis. Due to the nature of this environment, interns will have some public contact requiring considerable communication skills. Interns can expect to present keeper chats for the public during this internship.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Ability to multi-task and excel in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work independently while being an important part of a team
- Exhibit strong professionalism and communication skills
- Possess a desire to gain experience and knowledge working with elephants
- Some knowledge of husbandry is preferred but not required
- Interns are required to complete a minimum of 250 hours. Scheduling is flexible and interns can work any day of the week from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. up to 5 days/week to meet this commitment.
- Must provide a current negative TB test result prior to starting date
- Candidates do not need previous husbandry experience but working at other animal facilities is a plus
- Coursework in biology or zoology-related field is preferred but not required
- Compose and present an educational presentation at the end of internship

HERPETOLOGY INTERNSHIP

The Houston Zoo is offering an opportunity to participate in unpaid internships in the Herpetology Department! Interns will shadow Zoo staff and be exposed to large variety of snakes, lizards, turtles, tortoises, and amphibians. Interns are expected to be comfortable working in proximity to these animals, however, are prohibited from any interaction with venomous species, and certain other nonvenomous species.

Candidates for this position should be self-motivated, dependable, positive, and show an interest in pursuing a career in herpetology. The internship is designed to provide students the opportunity to learn the following:

- Diet preparation and feeding
- Care and maintenance of feeder insects
- Proper nutrition and care for a variety of reptiles and amphibians
- Maintaining of animal exhibits and holding areas according to AZA regulations
- Observing and recording animal conditions, behaviors, and responses
- Retrieving props
- Design and construction of proper habitat setups for different species
- Insight into a local species recovery program (one day will be spent with the Houston Toad Program)
- Positive and educational interaction with Zoo guests

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 25 pounds) on a regular basis. Due to the nature of this environment, interns will have some public contact requiring considerable communication skills. Interns can expect to present keeper chats for the public towards the end of the internship.

The Herpetology Department houses a diverse collection with 127 species of reptiles and 40 species of amphibians. Interns are not permitted to work with any venomous species and certain nonvenomous species, however, the Houston Zoo Herpetology collection includes many dangerous and/or venomous animals which are not relegated to one area. Extreme care and caution is crucial at all times.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Ability to multi-task and excel in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work independently while being an important part of a team
- Exhibit strong professionalism and communication skills
- Possess a desire to gain experience and knowledge working with reptiles and amphibians
- Some knowledge of herpetology is preferred but not required
- Interns are required to complete a minimum of 200 hours; internship can go beyond 200 hours if amenable to both parties.
- Interns can expect to participate on some weekends and holidays. A schedule will be created with input from the intern but may not include the same days each week. Start time is always 7 a.m.; regular finish time is 4 p.m. but is flexible (options to work more days but less hours in a day).
- Candidates do not need previous husbandry experience but working at other animal facilities is a plus
- Coursework in biology or zoology-related field is preferred but not required
- Compose and present an educational presentation at the end of internship

HOOF STOCK INTERNSHIP

The Houston Zoo is offering unpaid internships in our Hoof Stock Department! Interns will assist in the care of all the animals in the hoof stock collection including giraffes, rhinos, okapis, zebras, tapirs, anteaters, warthogs, and more. From barn and exhibit maintenance to enrichment and training of the animals, this position will give real world experience in the field of zoo animal keeping. In addition to learning daily duties, interns will gain knowledge of anatomy, behavior, reproduction, and the conservation status of each species.

Candidates for this position should be self-motivated, dependable, positive, and show an interest in pursuing a career in animal care management. The internship is designed to provide students the opportunity to learn the following:

- Diet preparation and feeding
- Proper nutrition and care for a variety of hoof stock species
- Maintaining of animal exhibits and holding areas according to AZA regulations
- Observing and recording animal condition, social behaviors, and responses
- Designing and constructing of enrichment and related evaluations
- Positive and educational interaction with Zoo guests

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 50 pounds) on a regular basis. Due to the nature of this environment, interns will have some public contact requiring considerable communication skills. Interns can expect to present keeper chats for the public towards the end of the internship.

REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:

- Ability to multi-task and excel in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work independently while being an important part of a team
- Exhibit strong professionalism and communication skills
- Possess a desire to gain experience and knowledge working with hoofed animals
- Some knowledge of hoofed animals is preferred but not required
- Interns are required to complete a minimum 300-hour time commitment, working no more than 5 days/week (minimum 3 days/week); shift times are 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Candidates do not need previous husbandry experience but working at other animal facilities is a plus
- Coursework in biology or zoology-related field is preferred but not required
- Compose and present an educational presentation at the end of internship

HOUSTON TOADS HUSBANDRY INTERNSHIP

The Houston Zoo is offering an unpaid Houston Toad Husbandry Internship within the Herpetology Department! This is a unique chance to work with one of the most endangered amphibian species in the United States. The successful candidate will participate in all aspects of the captive component of the recovery program, potentially including breeding, releases (spring session only), head starting, and population management.

During this internship, interns will acquire knowledge and familiarity with the literature and science concerning endangered species recovery programs. Interns will also gain introductory experience with a broad range of the components involved in captive conservation plans such as record keeping, biosecurity, water quality, nutritional management, disease monitoring and the pre-release steps taken to ensure that healthy animals are released back into native habitat. Interns will be involved with daily cleaning and feeding of Houston toad enclosures and keeper areas. Interns will also assist with monitoring the health of the captive colony through collection of fecal and other materials for medical testing and pre-release screening as well as recording accurate and extensive data on the captive toads such as feedings, growth, weight, behavior and other associated events.

PHYSICAL EFFORT AND ENVIRONMENT:

The internship involves moderate physical exertion, such as the use of ladders, lifting equipment, etc. on a frequent basis and assuming awkward positions. This area gets exposed to considerable heat and moisture.

REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:

- Ability to multi-task and excel in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work independently while being an important part of a team
- Exhibit strong professionalism and communication skills
- Interns are required to complete a minimum of 200 hours in the Houston toad program
- Applicants must be able to work any day of the week, including holidays and weekends
- Interns must attend Continuing Education courses provided by the Houston Zoo
- Coursework in biology or in a zoology related field is preferred.
- Compose and present an educational presentation at the end of internship

INVERTEBRATE INTERNSHIP

The Houston Zoo is offering an opportunity to participate in unpaid internship in the Bug House located within the John P. McGovern Children's Zoo! The Bug House is home to hundreds of invertebrates both on exhibit and behind the scenes. There is a variety of animals including venomous and non-venomous arthropods. All animal care is provided carefully with containment in mind and with oversight from the USDA. Several animals housed in the Bug House are ambassador animals and participate in animal handling for Zoo educational programs.

Candidates for this position should be self-motivated, dependable, positive, and show an interest in pursuing a career in animal care management. The internship is designed to provide students the opportunity to learn the following:

- Diet preparation and feeding
- Animal husbandry and breeding for a variety of species
- Animal handling
- Maintaining of animal exhibits and holding areas according to AZA & USDA regulations
- Positive and educational interaction with Zoo guests

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 50 pounds) on a regular basis. Due to the nature of this environment, interns will have some public contact requiring considerable communication skills. Interns can expect to present keeper chats for the public during the internship.

REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:

- Ability to multi-task and excel in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work independently while being an important part of a team
- Exhibit strong professionalism and communication skills
- Possess a desire to gain experience and knowledge working in a husbandry-related field
- Interns are required to complete a minimum 240-hour commitment; internship can go up to 400 hours if amenable to both parties.
- This internship is structured for a minimum of 24 hours/week. This is usually scheduled in 8-hour shifts per week (minimum 3 days/week, no more than 5 days/week). Applicants must be able to work any day of the week, with at least one of the days being a weekend day.
- Shift times are 6:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.
- Must provide a current negative TB test result prior to starting date
- Previous experience volunteering or working in an animal related field is a plus
- Some knowledge of animal husbandry is preferred but not required
- Coursework in biology or zoology-related field is preferred but not required
- Compose and present an educational presentation at the end of internship

NATURAL ENCOUNTERS INTERNSHIP

The Houston Zoo is offering an opportunity for students to participate in an unpaid internship in the Natural Encounters Department! An intern in this department will help provide excellent care for a wide variety of birds, reptiles, and mammals including meerkats, sloths, mole-rats, red pandas, tamarins, bats and much more. Our structured program optimizes learning opportunities for interns as well as their daily contribution to the department.

During this internship, interns will gain understanding and experience in the day to day husbandry of multi-species exhibits and program animals. In addition to that, interns will contribute to departmental keeper chats, gain exposure to basic terminology and the theory of operant conditioning training, and experience in creating and providing animal enrichment within the structure of a comprehensive enrichment program.

Successful candidates will participate in many aspects of husbandry including:

- Diet preparation and feeding
- Proper nutrition and care for a variety of species
- Maintaining of animal exhibits and holding areas according to AZA and USDA regulations
- Observing and recording animal condition, behaviors, and responses
- Designing appropriate enrichment
- Positive and educational interaction with Zoo guests

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 50 pounds) on a regular basis. Due to the nature of this environment, interns will have some public contact requiring considerable communication skills.

REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:

- Ability to multi-task and excel in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work independently while being an important part of a team
- Exhibit strong professionalism and communication skills
- Possess a desire to gain animal care management experience and knowledge
- Interns are required to complete a minimum of 400-hours. This is typically accomplished in 9 hour shifts from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 5 days a week for 10 weeks. Applicants must be able to work any day of the week, including weekends. Any exceptions must be discussed with supervisor prior to start of internship.
- Must provide a current negative TB test result prior to starting date
- Coursework in biology or zoology-related field is preferred
- Compose and present an educational presentation at the end of internship

PRIMATES INTERNSHIP

The Houston Zoo is offering students opportunities to participate in unpaid internships with our Primates Department. This is one of the biggest departments at the Houston Zoo consisting of many different species including chimpanzees, orangutans, lemur, guenons, tamarins, siamangs, patas monkeys, sifakas, and gorillas. This is an exciting and unique opportunity for students to be alongside keepers, develop important professional relationships, and gain valuable hands-on experience. Throughout this experience, interns will shadow Zoo staff in routine husbandry techniques, training, and animal care for our many primates.

Candidates for this position should be self-motivated, dependable, positive, and show an interest in pursuing a career in animal care management. The internship is designed to provide students the opportunity to learn the following:

- Diet preparation and feeding
- Proper nutrition and care for primates
- Maintaining of animal exhibits and holding areas according to AZA regulations
- Observing and recording animal condition, social behaviors, and responses
- Designing and constructing of enrichment and related evaluations
- Positive and educational interaction with Zoo guests

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 25 pounds) on a regular basis. Due to the nature of this environment, interns will have some public contact requiring considerable communication skills. Interns can expect to present keeper chats for the public towards the end of the internship.

REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:

- Ability to multi-task and excel in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work independently while being an important part of a team
- Exhibit strong professionalism and communication skills
- Possess a desire to gain experience and knowledge working with prosimians, monkeys and apes
- Some knowledge of primatology is preferred but not required
- Candidates do not need previous primate experience but working in kennels or other animal facilities is a plus
- The primate internship program runs for 10 weeks. Interns are expected to commit to at least 32 hours a week. The preferred schedule is an 8-hour day (7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.) five days per week. Some flexibility in scheduling may be considered such as working a 6-hour day from (7:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.) five days per week for 11 weeks or an 8-hour day four days per week.
 - Applicants must be willing to work any day of the week, including weekends.
- Interns are required to complete approximately 320 hours
- Attend Continuing Education courses provided by the Houston Zoo
- Must provide a current negative TB test result prior to starting date
- Coursework in biology or zoology-related field is preferred
- Compose and present an educational presentation at the end of internship

SEA LIONS INTERNSHIP

The Houston Zoo is offering students an opportunity to participate in an unpaid internship with our Sea Lions Department! The curriculum for this program is structured to help interns gain a strong understanding of a career in husbandry, training, conservation and research of California sea lions. Throughout this experience, interns will shadow Zoo staff in routine husbandry techniques, training and animal care for our sea lions.

Candidates for this position should be self-motivated, dependable, positive, and show an interest in pursuing a career in animal care management, with an emphasis on working with marine animals. The internship is designed to provide students the opportunity to learn the following:

- Diet preparation, including fish and squid
- Proper nutrition and care for sea lions
- Maintaining of animal exhibits and holding areas according to AZA regulations
- Observing and recording animal condition, behaviors, and responses
- Filtration system, water sampling and chemistry
- Designing appropriate enrichment
- The fundamentals of modern animal training techniques
- Positive and educational interaction with zoo guests
- Improvement of public speaking skills through the development of an educational presentation

PHYSICAL EFFORT AND ENVIRONMENT:

This position involves a lot of walking and lifting. The majority of the internship is spent outdoors; you will also be in a covered but non-climate controlled building. You will be exposed to all levels of 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. Due to the nature of this environment, interns will have some public contact requiring considerable communication skills. Interns can expect to present keeper chats for the public during this internship.

REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:

- Ability to multi-task and excel in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work independently while being an important part of a team
- Exhibit strong professionalism and communication skills
- Possess a desire to gain experience and knowledge working with sea lions or marine mammals
- Some knowledge and/or coursework in marine biology and psychology is preferred but not required
- Previous experience with marine mammals preferred but not required
- Interns are required to complete a minimum 400-hour commitment. Depending on other opportunities that the intern chooses to take advantage of, he/she may complete more hours. Interns must be able to work any day of the week, including weekends. Most shifts will be 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.; to meet hours, this requires interns to be at the Zoo 4 or 5 days/week during the internship period.
- Complete provided study guides and quizzes
- Coursework in biology or zoology and psychology-related fields preferred
- Compose and present an educational presentation at the end of internship