

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 Carnivore collection including lions, tigers, cheetahs, black bears, jaguars, cougars, fossa, Clouded leopard, and ocelot. From exhibit maintenance to enrichment and training, this position will give real world experience in the field of zoo keeping. 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 or conservation. The internship is designed to provide students the opportunity to learn the following:

- Diet preparation and feeding
- Proper husbandry 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
- 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 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 carnivores
- Interns are required to complete a minimum 240-hour commitment; internship can go up to 400 hours if amenable to both parties. Interns must be able to work a minimum of 3 days a week with one of those days being a week end day.
- 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