

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