

# Keeper Internship Level 1

**Department: Animal**

**Reports to: Assistant Curator**



## **General Description:**

The goal of this program is for each intern to spend time with the Education/Outreach and Barn Collections. Accepted interns may also rotate for a limited time the North America, and Asia areas (Intern Level 2) of the Zoo. For the animal portion, interns will participate in all daily chores and activities of animal care by working with a designated keeper. Activities include, but are not limited to, preparing and feeding diets, cleaning holding areas and exhibits, assisting veterinary procedures as directed, loading and unloading supplies, and understanding animal behavioral patterns. This is a career-building step for those considering employment in zoological or conservation-oriented facility.

## **Essential Functions:**

- Observes and evaluates animal condition, behavior and responses and communicates observations orally and on written reports
- Prepares and feeds appropriate diets, noting conformance of foods provided to diets prescribed for each animal.
- Checks on integrity of enclosures and structures, ensuring safety and welfare of animals, zoo visitors, and staff in accordance with established guidelines.
- Maintains live plants within enclosures ensuring neat, attractive exhibits.
- Performs minor repairs and preventative maintenance as necessary.
- Maintains clean and organized exhibits, equipment, and keeper areas.
- Improves the quality of life of the animal collection by providing environmental and behavioral enrichment opportunities.
- Trains selected animals through operant conditioning for purposes of gaining cooperation for veterinary treatment and/or public demonstrations.
- Installs exhibit furnishings, props, and decorations safely, attractively and in a manner consistent with zoo guidelines.

## **Requirements:**

- Must have a two- or four-year college degree, or be a student enrolled in a college or university pursuing a degree in Biology, Zoology, Education, Environmental Sciences, Psychology, Pre-Vet, Veterinary Technology, or other related disciplines.

- Must have an academic advisor or sponsor; obtaining academic credit is up to the student
- Must have a desire to learn professional animal care techniques.
- Must be able to work on weekends, holidays and flexible hours as well as various evening hours.
- Maintain clean driving record for safe operation of Zoo vehicles and possess and maintain a state of Montana driver's license.
- Must have excellent interpretation skills, be comfortable with public speaking and be able to improvise when needed
- Must be able to work with animals, adults and children of various backgrounds.
- Must be able to stand for extended periods of time.
- Must be able to withstand typical Montana climate.
- Must be able to lift 50 pounds

**Skills:**

- Must be able to communicate well with public and present a positive attitude even in difficult situations.
- Must be detail oriented and possess good record keeping methods.
- Must be self-motivated and able to think logically and solve any problems that arise with little or no guidance.

**Criteria for successful completion of internship:**

- Must work 32-40 hours a week for a minimum of 12 consecutive weeks. Other schedules may be considered.
- Must complete a brief project of the student's choosing, approved by ZooMontana Curator, and student's academic advisor, by the end of the academic term. Examples of projects include a literature review of a species, a management project, an education program for the zoo or a project to enhance the welfare of a zoo animal.

**Application Procedure:**

Consideration for internships is ongoing. However, because of limited openings we recommend applying as soon as possible each semester.

Your application packet must include:

- Cover letter explaining why you are interested in an internship at ZooMontana
- Resume
- Letter of recommendation from an advisor or professional mentor

Submit materials to Travis Goebel- 2100 S. Shiloh Rd. Billings, MT 59106 or [tgoebel@zoomontana.org](mailto:tgoebel@zoomontana.org)