

College Animal Care Internship Position Description

This unpaid program is offered in conjunction with a known college or university internship program that is arranged in advance by the student. All internships are 12 weeks in duration and either 32 or 40 hours per week.

John Ball Zoo Animal Care Interns perform technical animal management work in the care and feeding of exotic and domestic animals; cleaning and maintenance of buildings, animal displays, and other animal enclosures. Interns also observe and report on the physical and behavioral condition of the animals. Work is performed under general supervision following established policies, procedures and instructions. All internships are unpaid and no housing or other assistance is provided.

Perspective applicants should possess:

- a basic knowledge of building cleaning methods and materials.
- knowledge of the principles, practices and techniques of biology, zoology or animal husbandry.
- ability and desire to learn proper animal management principles and practices as applied to an animal collection of mammals, birds, reptiles or aquatic life.
- ability to understand and follow oral/written instructions, to perform building and ground maintenance work frequently of a heavy nature
- ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other employees and the general public.
- enthusiasm and support for professionally operated zoos, conservation and education
- ability to work in a fast paced environment that places the highest value on customer service

Perspective interns must complete an application. We also require a resume with a cover letter. Cover letter should indicate why you are interested in the position and how you feel your internship will benefit you in your career aspirations.

Perspective applicants should be college upper classmen (junior level or higher) and have an interest in or currently pursuing a career in biology, zoology, zoo management, zoo and aquarium science, veterinary medicine, etc.

Applications will be reviewed by the Animal Management Supervisors and interviews granted based on their recommendations. In addition to the interview, a background check (criminal history, driving record and central registry clearance) must be completed prior to acceptance into the program. The fall and winter semesters are allotted two (2) internships for each session. The summer semester is allotted two (2) to four (4) internships.

Individuals will be required to provide proof of a negative TB skin test, or equivalent testing, prior to starting an internship. Individuals may be required to possess and maintain a valid Michigan driver's license.

Applications for each semester will be accepted until the following date:

Fall: 31 July

Winter: 30 November

Summer: 31 March

Standard physical requirements for the internship:

- Ability to bend, twist, stoop and stretch to enter animal enclosures.
- Ability to effectively communicate with the public and others.
- Hearing comprehension and sight (20/20 corrected vision) for safety reasons.
- Ability to lift up to 60 lbs. Strength to push and pull feed carts and animal doors.
- Repetitive use of hands and constant exposure of hands to various cleaning products and/or fluids in performance of duties.
- Ability to stand and walk for prolonged periods of time.