

Position Description

CONSERVATION SCIENCE BEHAVIORAL DIVERSITY RESEARCH PROJECT INTERN

This position contributes to the success of CZS by conducting behavioral research within a zoological setting focused on specific aspects of animal welfare. Interns will work with our Animal Behavior and Welfare team on a specific project that will examine the relationship between behavioral diversity and other indicators of animal welfare such as markers of adrenal activity and stereotypic behavior. The project team will conduct research with a subset of Brookfield Zoo mammals representing many taxonomic groups and collect behavioral data and samples over a three-month period from 30 individual animals representing 10 mammal species. If behavioral diversity could be validated as an indicator of positive welfare, animal care staff will have a new tool to use for welfare monitoring. With the link between animal welfare and reproductive success, ensuring high levels of welfare will help ensure sustainability of the collection and allow the zoo to better serve its animals and the public.

PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Work with the Animal Care and Welfare research team on techniques necessary to conduct behavioral research.
2. Collect behavioral data on a number of species.
3. Assist in all aspects of planning, executing, and analyzing behavioral research data.
4. Complete an independent project focusing on animal welfare with objectives and details to be determined with CZS mentor during the course of the internship, based on individual strengths, interests, and professional pursuits. (20%)
5. Other related duties as assigned. (10%)

REQUIREMENTS & SPECIFICATIONS

- Minimum two years of college at an accredited institution; G.P.A. 2.5/4.0, majoring in biology, psychology, ecology, endocrinology, animal science, or other directly relevant field. Applicants who have demonstrated experience with research in lab, field or other setting are preferred. Coursework in research skills, biology, animal behavior, ecology, or related field may be substituted.
- Excellent communications and interpersonal skills (verbal, written, and listening)
- Strong computer skills required including: Windows; Microsoft products such as PowerPoint, Word, Outlook, and Excel; some familiarity with videoconferencing platforms such as Zoom and/or Microsoft Teams preferred.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Department: Animal Care & Welfare

Pay Rate: Unpaid

Schedule: Full-time (40 hrs/week) for 12 weeks over the summer of 2023.