

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore Intern Position Description

Title: Animal Care and Behavior Intern

Department: Animal

Supervised by: Curator of Animal Behavior Programs & Area Manager- Relief Keepers

Dates: May – August 2025

Time Commitment: Internships are 12-14 weeks and typically follow a part-time workweek pattern: minimum commitment is 16 hours per week that can be made up of two full days or up to four half days, Tuesday through Friday. The department supervisor sets final schedules.

Overview:

Founded in 1876, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is the third oldest zoo in the United States and is internationally known for its contributions in conservation and research. The Maryland Zoo is also a major tourist and education destination that welcomes 450,000 guests annually.

Behavioral observation, animal care, and management are key components of an animal's health and well-being. Interns will observe a variety of species across the Zoo, assist with daily care routines, and collect data that will help animal care professionals make evidence-based decisions regarding the animals' well-being.

Please note: Internships are unpaid, and there is no reimbursement for transportation or housing.

Responsibilities:

- Assist with behavioral research by collecting animal behavior data.
- Assist with daily husbandry care, including cleaning habitats, replenishing food and water, and assisting with enrichment activities.
- Monitor animal health and behavior and report observations to animal care staff.
- Prepare diets and assist in feeding routines for select species under supervision.
- Help maintain accurate records related to animal care and observations.
- Support zoo staff with habitat and facility maintenance, ensuring clean and safe environments for the animals.
- Engage in hands-on learning experiences, including enrichment design, training sessions, and animal handling (as appropriate for the species).
- Answer visitors' questions about animals and the Zoo, helping to educate the public on conservation efforts.
- Trainings include;
 - **Animal Safety Training** – Hands-on instruction in safe animal interactions and species-specific care protocols.
 - **Husbandry & Enrichment Training** – Learning how to assist with cleaning habitats, preparing diets, and implementing enrichment activities to support animal welfare.
 - **Behavioral Observation Techniques** – Training in data collection methods, note-taking, and ethogram usage.

- **Emergency Procedures & Zoonotic Disease Awareness** – Instruction on emergency response, biosecurity, and disease prevention.
- **On-the-Job Training** – Mentorship and supervised, hands-on experience assisting animal care staff in the assigned area.

Qualifications:

- Must be at least 18 years of age and current college student or recent graduate;
- Must have the ability to stand on feet for long periods and lift moderately heavy; loads;
- Interest in working with animals and understanding animal behavior;
- **This is an entry level position for those looking to gain experience in this field;**
- Excellent communication and organizational skills;
- Willingness to learn about Maryland Zoo amenities, layout, operations, animal collection and conservation efforts;
- Must be able to lift up to 30 pounds; and
- Must be able to work outdoors in all seasons and weather conditions.

Training: All interns must complete Volunteer Orientation, a Self-Guided Tour, and on-the-job training for position.

Benefits:

- The opportunity to learn in an AZA accredited facility.
- Hands-on experience, experiential learning and mentoring by our staff.
- Professional development workshops.
- Zoo Membership during your internship.
- Free Zoo admission, discount on purchases in Zoo gift shops and volunteer newsletter with wildlife news and Maryland Zoo happenings.
- Maryland Zoo Internships may be applied to receive college credit in accordance with your school's policy.