



## FAQ's for the Species Specific (16-week) Animal Care Internship Program

The 4-month internship program at Best Friends Animal Society is designed to provide participants a comprehensive, hands-on experience with a designated species (presently offered in dogs, cats, and parrots). There are specific learning objectives and a syllabus has been developed for each of the animal areas. Interns will be involved in all aspects of the day to day activities and overall operations of their animal area. In turn, the interns provide additional support to the operations, which ultimately benefits the animals.

### ***Please note:***

- The species specific internship in Dogtown is 16-weeks and the start dates are pre-determined. Please see the 4-month session dates located on the internships webpage and indicate the session you are applying for on your application.
- If applying for an internship in Cats or Parrots, the length of time for an internship in these areas can sometimes be more flexible according to the manager's discretion (minimum of 5-weeks and a maximum of 16-weeks). Please include the 4-month session date which aligns most closely with your availability and specify the dates and length of time you are available on your application.

### **Who may participate?**

The internship program is open to individuals, ages 20 and over, who are interested in gaining knowledge and experience in the field of animal care and welfare. You will need to provide your own transportation during your stay. *Please note that many car rental agencies do not rent to people under age 25. Some agencies rent to people who are at least 21 years of age with an additional fee.*

***Please note:*** There are additional qualifications for applicants applying for a 4-month internship in Dogtown only. Qualifications include prior experience working with dogs outside of the applicant's personal and family/friends' pets (i.e., volunteering at a local shelter) and the intent to utilize the skills gained in a career working in animal care and/or animal rescue.

### **Is there a charge for the program?**

All interns are requested to pay a \$250 refundable deposit once they are accepted into the program. This deposit will be refunded once they begin the program. If an



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intern cancels less than 45 days before their session starts the total deposit will be forfeited. If they cancel 45 days or more before the first day of the internship the deposit will be refunded. Any forfeited deposits will be donated to Best Friends Animal Society. There are no additional fees for this internship program.

### **What is required?**

The internship duties vary from day to day. Willingness and flexibility are a must. Interning in our high desert climate and altitude (over 5,000 ft) requires good physical stamina. ***You will be expected to intern five days a week, Monday through Friday. There is no vacation time/time off during this 16-week period and you will be expected to adhere to our policies regarding attendance.***

The program is voluntary and you ***cover your own expenses***. There are several housing options, including hotels, motels, VRBOs, Airbnbs, or camping in the nearest town, Kanab, Utah. A list of off-site housing options can be found here:

<http://bestfriends.org/sanctuary/visit-our-utah-sanctuary/places-stay/site-lodging>

If you have difficulty finding housing, please email the Intern Coordinator for assistance.

### **How much money will I need for four months in Kanab?**

Housing prices vary depending on the type of accommodation. Gas prices are higher than the national average. National park entrance fees are \$25 each visit, unless you purchase an annual pass for \$80, which will allow entrance to all national parks for a year. Kanab has two grocery stores and several fast-food restaurants. Vegetarian and vegan lunches are available at our Village Café for \$5 a person, which is open 7 days a week, though you are welcome to bring a bag lunch. You may be able to use the kitchen of your housing provider (check with them) for all other meals.

### **What about paid positions with Best Friends?**

The Internship program is **not** a precursor to employment at Best Friends. For information on job opportunities, please contact the Human Resources Department at <http://www.bestfriends.org/aboutus/employment/>. If you apply for a position at Best Friends and you are contacted by HR to schedule a 2-week evaluation period, please note that you will NOT be able to do this **during** your 4-month internship. However, you may do it prior to or immediately following your internship.

### **May I bring my own pets with me?**



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We strongly discourage interns from bringing their own pets. Many lodging options have their own animals and do not allow visitors to bring theirs. Days are long and you cannot bring your pets to the sanctuary with you so they will be left alone for long periods of time. However, many of our animals are available for sleepovers, so if interested, you may want to make sure your lodging allows sleepover animals.

### **What if I decide to leave the program early?**

You are under no obligation to remain at the sanctuary. However, if you leave before the end of sixteen weeks (or the amount of time agreed upon for the internship) we will not be able to certify that you completed the Internship Program.

***Please note:** Best Friends reserves the right to ask an intern to leave if we feel our program is not meeting the needs of the intern and/or the sanctuary.*

### **Can friends and family visit and volunteer during my internship?**

Friends and family are welcome. You will have two days off each week to see the sights and spend time with visitors. If friends and family would like to tour the sanctuary they should contact the Welcome Center at 435-644-2001, ext. 4537. To volunteer at the sanctuary they should contact our Volunteer Department at (435) 644-2001, ext. 4119, or [volunteers@bestfriends.org](mailto:volunteers@bestfriends.org).

### **Where is the sanctuary?**

Best Friends is located in a spectacular red rock canyon in the high desert of southern Utah, with opportunities for hiking and exploring the canyon, learning about native plants and animals and the former Native American inhabitants. This remote, rural setting is near the small town of Kanab, Utah in the heart of the Golden Circle, which includes the Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park and the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. Be prepared for natural beauty, not shopping malls.

### **The Best Friends Story**

If you'd like to learn more about the history of Best Friends, check with your local library for a copy of *Best Friends: the True Story of the World's Most Beloved Animal Sanctuary* by Samantha Glen. This book is also available in the Best Friends Gift Shop, or online through the Best Friends Store at: <https://shopping.bestfriends.org/>.