



SAVE THEM ALL™

5-Week General Animal Care Internship Description

Position Title: 5-Week General Animal Care Internship

Reports to: Intern Coordinator

Location: Best Friends Animal Sanctuary - Kanab, Utah

Position Summary: The Five-Week General Animal Care internship program at Best Friends Animal Society is a great way to gain hands-on experience with animal care in a sanctuary setting. Interns spend one week in each of the following areas: Dogtown, Cat World, Parrot Garden, Rabbits, and Horses & Pigs. The majority of the internship will be animal care. This can be physically challenging and may include feeding; lifting heavy bags; cleaning kennels, catteries, bird cages, and horse stalls; and exercising the animals. Interns also learn how to gently train and socialize animals, which increases their chance for adoption, and they attend classes, discussions, presentations and meetings.

Internship Duration and Schedule:

- 40 hours per week, for 5-weeks
- Various start dates are available throughout the year
- Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (with 1 hour lunch break).

Compensation:

- **This is an unpaid internship.** Housing is not provided. All expenses including living expenses and travel are the responsibility of the intern. Interns can apply for scholarships to assist with housing and travel if there is a genuine financial need.

Learning Goals/Objectives:

The program will provide an integrated learning experience in which participants will:

1. Learn and demonstrate best practices in animal care for a variety of species through participating in the daily routine of animal care in the following areas: Dogtown, Cat World, Bunny House, Parrots, Horses, Pigs and Wild Friends,
2. Gain an understanding of Best Friends' overall mission and key lifesaving initiatives; and
3. Be inspired and gain the tools to take action in their own communities to save the lives of animals.

Responsibilities:

- Learn and understand cleaning protocols and participate in the daily cleaning routine in each animal area. Please note, cleaning is generally physical in nature, and in certain areas such as Cat World, it may involve climbing ladders to clean rafters and litter boxes.
- Perform physical tasks related to animal care such as lifting heavy bags and cleaning kennels, horse stalls, and bird cages.
- Learn about basic animal care for various species, feeding, special dietary needs, animal behavior, and socialization.

- Review development of feeding schedules for various species, prepare, and distribute food.
- Participate in animal enrichment programs in different areas (i.e., one-on-one attention and captive foraging in parrots and walking cats on harnesses/leashes in Cat World).
- Learn about clicker training for different species.
- Participate in exercising animals such as walking dogs.
- Attend presentations on a variety of topics from Best Friends key initiatives (i.e., Breed Discrimination Legislation) to animal behavior and training, special tours, and group lunches.
- Other duties as assigned as in each animal area.

Skills and Experience:

- Genuine interest in animals and the field of animal welfare.
- Able to understand and adhere to all safety rules in each animal area.
- Strong listening skills. Displays a willingness to learn by listening and asking questions.
- Demonstrates initiative to listen to instructions, ask questions to clarify if needed, and ensure that tasks are carried out correctly.
- Friendly demeanor and able to communicate well with volunteers and staff.
- Demonstrates personal accountability to ensure that all responsibilities are completed effectively and in a timely manner.
- Able to communicate effectively through oral and written communication.
- Must be at least 20 years of age.
- Must have reliable transportation in order to get to various areas of the Animal Sanctuary, which are spread out over several miles, in a timely manner each day, including to the various animal areas, café, and presentation meeting rooms.

Physical Requirements:

- Must be able to routinely lift up to 25 pounds.
- Ability to remain in a stationary position for long periods of time.
- Must be able to perform strenuous physical activity on a daily basis, including but not limited to: walking, bending, lifting, carrying, twisting, reaching, stooping and squatting, shoveling, and ascending and descending ladders.
- Must be able to intern outdoors in all weather conditions, with temperatures ranging from below freezing to above 100 degrees.
- Must be able to interact with physically strong dogs, such as when walking on a leash.
- Must be able to intern around allergens like hay, dust and rabbit fur.

To apply, please visit the Best Friends Internships webpage to download an application at <http://bestfriends.org/sanctuary/volunteer/internships>. Please email your application and a current resume to internships@bestfriends.org. If you have questions, please contact Brittany Bingeman, Intern Coordinator at internships@bestfriends.org or 435-644-2001 ext. 4861.

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