



**Best
Friends
Animal
Society**

SAVE THEM ALL®

Five-Week General Animal Care Internship Program

The ***Five-Week General Animal Care*** internship program at **Best Friends Animal Society** was created for those people interested in a hands-on work experience with animals in a sanctuary setting. Participating in the daily routine of the sanctuary gives interns an excellent opportunity to learn about animal care, socialization of animals, animal behavior and animal rescue. So if you are interested in gaining knowledge and experience in the field of animal care and welfare, this is the internship program for you!

Frequently Asked Questions

Who may participate?

This program is open to individuals ages 20* and over. You will need to provide your own transportation during your stay, since many animal areas are far apart and the sanctuary is over 5 miles from town.

What will I be doing?

You will be scheduled in five of our animal areas. You'll spend a week in each of the following areas: Dogtown, Cat World, The Parrot Garden, Rabbits, and Horses & Pigs.

The majority of your 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. Socializing is also an important activity at the sanctuary. As an intern, you will learn how to gently train and socialize these animals, which increases their chance for adoption. You will also attend classes, discussions, presentations and meetings.

We hope that you will continue to use the knowledge and skills you gain during your internship beyond your five weeks here, to continue to carry out the mission of Best Friends Animal Society when you return home. Therefore, we encourage you to spend time thinking about projects and ideas that you can implement in your home community before you arrive and throughout the internship. If you are currently involved with a shelter or rescue in your local community, talk to them to see if there is something they need help with. If you are not currently involved in local community activities, let us know and we can help. Don't be afraid to ask!



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What is required?

The job varies from day to day. Willingness and flexibility are a must. Working in our high desert climate and altitude (over 5,000 ft) requires good physical stamina. ***You will be expected to work five days a week, Monday through Friday. There is no vacation time/time off during this five-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.

Is there a charge for the program?

Best Friends does not charge any fees for this internship program. However, all interns are required to pay a \$100 deposit which is refunded to you once you begin your internship. *Cancellation Policy: If you cancel 45 days or more before the first day of the internship, the entire deposit will be refunded. If you cancel less than 45 days before your session starts, the total deposit will be forfeited. Any forfeited deposits will be donated to Best Friends.*

How much money will I need for five weeks in Kanab?

Housing is not provided by Best Friends and housing rental prices vary. Gas prices are higher than the national average here in Southern Utah. 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, seven days a week, though you are welcome to bring a bag lunch.

What about paid positions with Best Friends?

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

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**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 for an additional fee.*

May I bring my own pets with me?

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 the Best Friends animals are available for sleepovers so be sure to check when arranging your lodgings to ensure they allow it.

What if I decide to leave the program early?

You are under no obligation to complete the program. However, if you leave the program before the end of five weeks, you will not receive a certificate of completion. **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 them. 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.

Where is the sanctuary located?

Best Friends is in a spectacular red rock canyon in the high desert of Southern Utah. 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.

Other options

Are you a vet tech student currently enrolled in an accredited school with six months of clinic experience under your belt? Or a fourth year vet student interested in doing a rotation in our clinic? Contact us or go to our website at:

<http://bestfriends.org/Get-Involved/Volunteer/Veterinary-Externships/>



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Interested in doing a longer, more in-depth internship in an animal area? Consider applying for our Four-month (16-week) internship in Cats, Dogs, or Parrots. Contact us or go to our website at:

<http://bestfriends.org/Get-Involved/Volunteer/Internships/>

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/>.