

Amphibian Veterinary Conservation Research Internship: Houston Toads

The Houston Zoo is seeking a **Veterinary Student Intern for our Houston Toad Conservation Program** for the summer of 2016. This is an opportunity to work with one of the most endangered amphibians in the United States through a unique recovery partnership with the Zoo's herpetology department, veterinary department, field partners, and USFWS.

The successful candidate will participate in the husbandry of captive Houston toads and work with zoo veterinarians and conservation biologists to design, implement, and complete a research project relating to the Houston toad program.

AGENDA

- Routine husbandry of Houston toads including feeding, cleaning, and record keeping to get baseline knowledge of husbandry and toad biology.
- Potential participation in hormone-assisted captive propagation program.
- Once familiarized with program, selection of a research project of interest, design and implementation of project.
 - Potential project topics include but are not limited to pathology and disease surveillance/reporting, or standardized health assessments of captive Houston toads.
 - Mentorship and supervision will be available, the success of the research project will be dependent primarily on the Houston Toad Veterinary Intern.
 - A motivated intern with a solid project has the potential to turn this research into a peer-reviewed publication.

SCHEDULE: This is a full time summer internship for the months of May-August, though exact start and finish dates are negotiable. Hours will generally be from 7 to 4 pm, 5 days a week. Hours may vary throughout the internship depending on the nature of the research project.

REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants should have completed one to two years of veterinary education and have an interest in non-domestic or zoo animal medicine
- *Minimum* of 200 hours during summer months (hour breakdown per week can be discussed)
- Complete 5 hours of continuing education
- Weekly meetings with Veterinarian Dr. Lauren Howard to go over progress, trouble shoot, re-direct, etc.
- Mid-term and final evaluations
- Research project and presentation with potential for publication

PHYSICAL EFFORT AND ENVIRONMENT: This position involves a lot of walking and lifting. Time outdoors can be expected, in all different weather conditions including heat, humidity, rain, cold, or dust. It may also involve considerable physical exertion such as climbing, reaching, assuming awkward positions, repetitive motions, and lifting and/or moving of heavy objects (up to 60 pounds) on a regular basis.

COMPENSATION: There is no compensation for this position. Cost of supplies related to research project will be covered by the Houston Zoo. The intern must provide his or her own transportation to and from the zoo as well as housing.

For additional information, contact **Dr. Lauren Howard:** lhoward@houstonzoo.org, or visit the Houston Zoo Volunteer Page for Application Information: <http://www.houstonzoo.org/internship/>

Deadline for Application: March 1, 2016.