

Houston Toad Conservation Summer Veterinary Intern Info
Summer 2023

Houston Zoo, Inc.
1513 Cambridge St.
Houston, TX 77030

Primary Contact:

Ruth Zavala or Katie Solomon, Administrative Assistants

vetadmin@houstonzoo.org

P: 713-533-6632

F: 713-533-6764

Clinical Experience: The Houston Zoo is seeking a Veterinary Student Intern for our **Houston Toad Conservation Program**. 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, USFWS and field partners. More information about the zoo's efforts in saving the Houston toad can be found on our website at: [Houston Toad - The Houston Zoo](#)

Research: The successful candidate will participate in the husbandry and medical care 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 recovery program.

Responsibilities: Students should expect to work May- August, for 5 days per week and weekend work may be required. Our work hours are typically 7am to 4 pm although there can be after-hours cases. Students will work with the clinical veterinarians to gain hands-on experience and complete various objectives:

- Routine husbandry of Houston toads including feeding, cleaning, and record keeping getting baseline knowledge of husbandry and toad biology.
- Pathology, including gross necropsy, sample collection, report writing, histopathology review.
- Participate in continuing education opportunities including zoo journal club meetings, mentor topics, and possible local veterinary CE.
- Potential participation in hormone-assisted captive propagation program.
- Possible opportunities for shadowing the veterinarians on clinical zoo rounds.
- 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, reproduction, or standardized health assessments of captive Houston toads.
 - The success of the research project will be dependent primarily on the Houston Toad Veterinary Intern with the possibility of turning the project into a peer-reviewed publication
 - Research project and presentation at the end of summer to zoo staff

Duration: 10-12 weeks (flexible depending on school schedule)

Application Requests: Submit a letter of intention, resume/curriculum vitae, unofficial transcript, and 2-3 letters of reference (zoo/exotic practitioners preferred) to our administrative assistant: Ruth Zavala or Katie Solomon Houston Zoo Veterinary Services Department 1513 Cambridge St. Houston, TX 77030 Phone: 713-533-6632 Fax: 713-533-6764 Email: vetadmin@houstonzoo.org

Application Deadline: Due March 1, 2023. Completed application requests must be received by deadline for consideration.

Class Standing: 1st or 2nd year veterinary students

Compensation: No compensation provided

Housing: No housing provided

Transportation: No transportation provided

Insurance: No insurance provided

Expenses: None

TB Tests/Vaccinations: 1. Current tetanus vaccine (within the last 10 years) 2. Rabies vaccination (within the last 2 years or titer check) 3. Confirmation of a negative TB test or proof of negative chest radiographs (from within the last year and valid through the end of the externship). 4. Current COVID vaccination.

Does program accept international applicants? Yes

Misc. Information: The Houston Zoo will complete a background check on approved applicants. A phone conversation to assess English proficiency will be scheduled with foreign students who do not speak English as their first language. This is done to ensure the student will be able to complete the externship without language barriers that could compromise safety, learning, and enjoyment of the experience.

For additional information, contact Dr. Maryanne Tociłowski, Dipl. ACZM, Staff Veterinarian at the Houston Zoo: mtocidłowski@houstonzoo.org.