



## **Animal Care Specialist Intern: Ungulates (Hoofed Animals)**

Interns in this field will have the chance to collaborate closely with animal care specialists to learn husbandry practices and manage a variety of hoofed animals. Among these animals are Bactrian camels, Grevy's zebras, addax, nyala, and Kirk's dik dik. Selected candidates will experience what it's like to manage animals in a "free contact" environment. The internship will provide valuable husbandry experience, particularly with breeding situations, potential pregnancies, and neonates, primarily occurring during the summer.

By working closely with the animal care staff and engaging with recommended reading materials, interns will gain hands-on experience in animal care responsibilities while learning various aspects of animal management in a professional setting. Interns will become proficient in exhibit maintenance, record-keeping, and diet preparation. Additionally, they will be introduced to animal training through positive reinforcement techniques and will have opportunities to enhance their observational skills.

As part of their internship, interns will be expected to design, implement, and complete a research project developed alongside their mentor and peers.

Preference will be given to juniors or seniors in college who aspire to pursue a career in animal care or zookeeping, although all eligible candidates are encouraged to apply. Some prior experience in animal care and/or research is also preferred.

## **AT A GLANCE**

**PAY RATE:** Unpaid

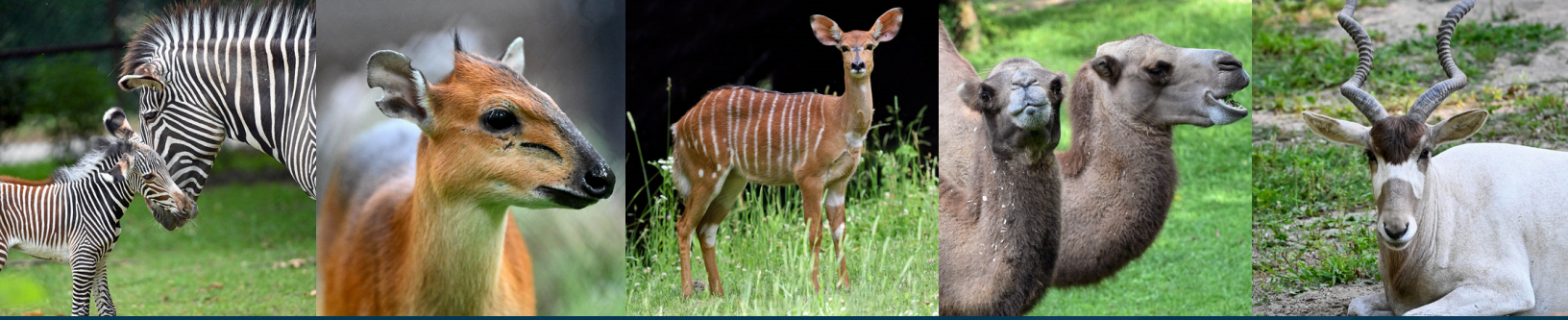
**HOURS/WEEK:** Full Time (35+ hours/week)

**COMMITMENT:** 10-12 weeks

**LOCATION:** Onsite at Brookfield Zoo Chicago

**PREREQUISITE:** At least 1 year of college credit & experience

**COLLEGE CREDIT:** Available upon request



## Position Details: Ungulates

### Physical Requirements

Animal Care Specialist positions are physically demanding, and interns may be subjected to a variety of physical demands and environmental factors and exposures. Candidates must have the ability to perform essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations, such as:

- Ability to stand, walk, kneel, or squat for extended periods.
- Ability to lift up to 50 pounds regularly
- Comfort working outdoors in varying and extreme weather conditions, including inclement weather, extreme heat, and cold temperatures.

All interns, regardless of proximity to animals, must have an up to date TDAP (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis) vaccination (booster within the last 10 years) and test negative for TB (Tuberculosis) within the last 12 months.

### Scheduling Expectations

Brookfield Zoo Chicago operates 365 days a year. Schedules vary by position, but may include weekends, holidays, early mornings, and evenings. Successful interns exemplify a positive attitude, strong work ethic, an eagerness to learn, and an ability to work effectively both in a team and independently. Given the competitive landscape of professional animal care, candidates should be mindful of the following scheduling requirements:

- Must be willing to commit to 10-12 weeks in a term, not to exceed 480 total hours.
- Availability is required for the full internship term, including weekdays, weekends, holidays, early mornings, and evenings.
- Schedules may change based on animal and departmental needs, with advance notice provided whenever possible.

Any anticipated scheduling conflicts should be disclosed during the interview process.

Interns are fully integrated into the daily operations of Dolphin Bay and Sea Lion Cove. Time is generally allocated as follows:

- 40% departmental tasks like cleaning, maintenance, animal observations, enrichment support
- 15% educational meetings, readings, training discussions, and individual project research
- 25% guest engagement, including guest interactions and assisting with daily presentations
- 15% observing training sessions and assisting with animal husbandry

### Preferred Qualifications

- Preference is given to those who have completed at least 2 years of college.
- Multilingual ability, Spanish fluency a plus.