

Internship Details

Eligibility:

Dunrovin Exotic Animal Sanctuary is searching for dependable, trustworthy, and responsible applicants with a true passion for animal care. Applicants must have a positive attitude and strong interpersonal skills. Due to the nature of the internship, applicants must be able to perform strenuous activity in all temperatures and weather conditions and must be able to lift up to 50 pounds. We are looking for applicants willing to work with any animal and perform any tasks necessary to facilitate animal care and the functionality of the facility. Applicants must be at least 17 years of age. Each internship period lasts twelve weeks and starts on the first full week of the quarter. This is an unpaid position. Applicants must be able to intern from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm for a minimum of two days each week Monday through Friday.

About the Internship:

This internship provides an opportunity to gain real-world knowledge and experience in the realm of animal care. There will be hands-on training with a wide variety of species, including many different birds, reptiles, and mammals. Interns will learn the importance of all aspects of animal welfare, including nutrition, enrichment, handling, social needs, and environmental needs. Other areas interns will gain experience in are customer interaction, public presentation, and teamwork. This position is the perfect addition to any resume and is a great way to stand out from the crowd when applying for a career in animal care.

Each intern will be under the direct supervision of our experienced animal caretakers. Jacob, the park manager, has been working at Dunrovin since 2020. His dedication and strong work ethic have allowed us to expand the variety of animals we are able to give a home to. He has a background in environmental education and has taught classes for the Boy Scouts of America. Jacob played a key role in establishing the 501c3 status for the sanctuary and worked tirelessly to exceed the expectations of USDA and obtain our license. His focuses are birds, reptiles, and canids. Amelia, the assistant manager, has been at Dunrovin since 2022 but has been working in animal care since 2017. She was the lead animal caretaker at a medium-sized zoo and worked with a wide variety of mammal and reptile species. Her work with animal welfare and medicine has helped the sanctuary reach even higher levels of care and has strengthened our ability to provide a safe home for all animals. Her focuses are primates, rodents, and native wildlife.

Applications:

Applications open twelve weeks before the internship is due to start. The deadline for applications is six weeks before the internship is due to start. We will interview prospective candidates in the two weeks following the application deadline. We will notify the applicants of our decision no later than four weeks before the internship is due to start. Interested applicants must submit the following documents, either by mail, email, or in person:

1. Cover Letter
2. Internship Application
3. Resume
4. Two Formal Letters of Recommendation

Please fill out the application completely. Letters of recommendation must have applicable signatures. Any missing or incomplete documents will automatically invalidate your application. Any applications received before the opening date or after the deadline will not be processed. If you are sending your application by mail, be sure to send it early enough that we receive it before the deadline. The deadlines for 2023 and 2024 internships are as follows:

*October 1 - December 23, 2023: Applications Open July 23, 2023
Application Deadline September 3, 2023
Decision Deadline September 10, 2023

January 7 - March 30, 2024: Applications Open October 15, 2023
Application Deadline November 26, 2023
Decision Deadline December 10, 2023

April 7 - June 29, 2024: Applications Open January 14, 2024
Application Deadline February 25, 2024
Decision Deadline March 10, 2024

July 7 - September 28, 2024: Applications Open April 14, 2024
Application Deadline May 26, 2024
Decision Deadline June 9, 2024

October 6 - December 28, 2024: Applications Open July 14, 2024
Application Deadline August 25, 2024
Decision Deadline September 8, 2024

*The dates for our first internship starting October 1, 2023 have been modified to allow applicants ample time to complete and send in documents. With this modification, the interview period will be one week.

Individuals may apply for every internship opportunity. If an individual's application was denied, they may still apply to the next internship opportunity. If an individual has previously interned with us, they may still apply to our internship opportunities but must produce new documents every time they apply. Between one and four applicants may be chosen each quarter. Internships may be terminated at any point at the discretion of Dunrovin Exotic Animal Sanctuary.

To email your application, send the files to dunrovinexoticanimalsanctuary@gmail.com with the subject format being "[Your Name] Internship Application [Starting Date]".

To mail your application, send the documents to the following address:

Dunrovin Exotic Animal Sanctuary ATTN: Internships
5456 US 1 N
Vass, NC 28394

To hand in your application in person, address an envelope using the above and hand it to a staff member in the store. The staff will not do in-person interviews outside of the designated weeks.