

2019-  
2020



## [ANIMAL KEEPER INTERNSHIP]

We offer hands-on internships for self-motivated, flexible and responsible individuals capable of assisting with the daily operations and husbandry requirements of our facility.

Mandalay Farms (Weisberg Stables LLC) is a 20-acre private equestrian, farm and exotic animal facility located in Jupiter, Florida. Mandalay Farms is licensed by FWC & USDA and is a member of the [Farm Based Education Association](#) (FBEA), the [International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations](#) (IAHAIO), [Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship](#) (PATH), [Florida Agritourism Association](#), and the [American Association of Zookeepers](#).

We offer unique Animal Keeper internships, with a variety of species, for undergraduate or graduate students with an interest in: Animal Education & Outreach, Animal Husbandry, Training and Nutrition or Animal Assisted Education, therapies or interactions.

**Ambassador Animal collection includes:**

**Equines:** BLM Mustangs, Quarter Horse, Welsh Ponies, Appaloosa Horse, Shetland Ponies, Miniature horses, and miniature donkeys

**Avian:** Toco Toucan, Curl Crested Aracari, Kookaburra, Emus and Cockatiels

**Small Mammals:** Southern Tamandua, White-nosed Coatis, Striped Skunk, Prehensile Tailed porcupine, African crested porcupine, Black Tail Dwarf Hairy porcupine, Patagonian Maras, Guinea Pigs, Continental Giant Rabbits, Angora Rabbits, and Dwarf Rabbits.

**Primates:** Ruffed lemurs

**Farm Animals:** Chickens, Turkeys, Llamas, goats, pot-bellied pigs

**Reptiles:** Pancake, Ornamental Box, Galapagos, Indian Star, Sulcatta, and Aldabra tortoises

## Internship Programs

**The PAID Animal Keeper and Nutritionist Internship** is designed to provide an immersive experience to students interested in pursuing a career in zoo keeping. Intern will learn about professional animal care standards, USDA and FWC Standards, safety principals as well as receive detailed instruction on daily animal care.

Interns participate in various aspects of animal care, diet preparation, husbandry, enrichment and training. The educational opportunities provided to our interns allow them to gain insight into animal care and behavior through training, and shadowing hands-on experiences.

### **Responsibilities for this internship include:**

- Cleaning, maintenance and alteration of animal enclosures, exhibits and cages
- Record keeping of daily activities, animal nutrition, observances and training programs
- Creating enrichment and learning animal behavior
- Assisting with Operant conditioning and maintenance training
- Commissary rotation to include ordering, diet preparation, and sanitation of area in accordance with USDA requirements
- Participation in regular health care routines

### **Schedule Requirement:**

Intern must work a minimum of 25-35 hours per week with a minimum 15-week commitment. Please be aware that internship may require working on holidays or weekends.

**Availability:** Two interns are chosen for Spring, Summer, Fall or Winter

### **Internship Project (independent of animal care shifts)**

- Develop and implement a simple behavior to train for an animal in our collection using operant conditioning
- Design and implement a new enrichment item for an animal in our collection to encourage natural behavior(s)
- Design or redesign a habitat for a species chosen by your supervisor.

**Assigned Reading:** Animal Care Manuals, Don't shoot the dog, Karen Pryor, Animal Welfare Act, Mandalay Farms Policy & Procedures manual

**The UNPAID Education & Outreach internship** offers a great opportunity to work with a wide range of animals and learn valuable husbandry techniques necessary to becoming a successful zookeeper. This program is designed to provide an immersive experience for students who are interested specifically in education and outreach programs with Ambassador Animals.

Responsibilities for this internship include:

- Directly assist with all aspects of animal husbandry, operant conditioning, behavioral enrichment, and diet preparation ;
- Record keeping of daily activities, animal nutrition, observances and training programs;
- Educating and engaging guests on tour or during outreach presentations
- Assist with camps and animal encounters
- Creating lesson plans and hand-outs for presentations;
- Participate in creating social media posts (Facebook, Instagram), blog posts and behind-the-scenes videos/pictures;

**Schedule Requirement:**

Intern must work a minimum of 18-hours per week, over a 12-week period. Please be aware that internship may require working on holidays or weekends.

**Availability:** One intern is chosen for Fall or Winter Internship only

**Internship Projects (independent of animal care shifts)**

- Develop and implement a simple behavior to train for an animal in our collection using operant conditioning
- Create a Kids Camp program to include outline, description for handout and curriculum.

**Assigned Reading:** Animal Care Manuals, Don't shoot the dog, Karen Pryor, Animal Welfare Act, Mandalay Farms Policy & Procedures manual

## **Applicant Qualifications:**

- Minimum age 18
- Minimum 1 year of college with 3.0 overall GPA
- Must be comfortable working in all weather conditions with tolerance of strong odors, hay, straw, dust, or dander
- Able to follow oral and written instructions
- Candidates pursuing an accredited degree in animal care, zoology or animal science related field is strongly preferred

## **Physical Requirements:**

- Applicants must be in good physical condition as daily duties require lifting, bending, twisting, stooping, carrying and extensive standing/walking/pulling.
- Applicants must be capable of lifting or carrying crates/animals/feed/hay weighing up to 50 pounds and operating wheel barrows or carts loaded up to 100 lbs.

## **Medical Requirements:**

- Proof of recent negative TB Test (within last 6 months)
- Current Tetanus vaccination (within last 5 years)

## **Internship Schedule**

*Interns must fulfill schedule requirement for their desired internship. Interns should work no less than 3 days per week.*

Session	Months	Application Deadline
Spring	February- May	December 30th
Summer	June- August	April 15th
Fall	September- December	July 15th

**How to apply:** Complete the [Animal Keeper Internship application](#) at WeisbergStables.com