



Animal Enrichment and Training in a Zoo

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Zootah at Willow Park

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Abstract

The zoo is a place where people can learn more about animals from all over the world. This can bring attention to protecting the ecosystems that house those animals and the animals themselves. The first step is making sure those animals we take care of are happy and healthy. At this internship, my objectives were to 1.) better understand how the zoo operates 2.) learn about the basic requirements to house species at a zoo 3.) learn the necessary steps to help new animals acclimate to a new place 4.) learn the basics of animal enrichment for zoo animals 5.) learn about enrichment for specific animals. To learn these things, I spent time doing a variety of things including some basic chores, helping give the animals medicine, assisting and learning how to train the animals, learning about the different enrichment, and enrichment for the animals. After completing this internship, I learned the importance of keeping up on all the daily tasks. I also gained skills in taking care of the animals in my care and learning to pay attention to the behavior of the animals. Each animal is different and needs individual attention. By observing them and experimenting which helps them the most, this will lead to greater contentment in the animals.

Activities

- Assisting with large bird aggression training using a training stick and cockroaches.
 - Learning to train Goats
 - Assisting weighing animals
- Assist in applying medicine to turtles with shell rot
- Research recommended enrichment for specific animals and propose a new enrichment
 - Assist in making enrichment



Lizard exploring a new environment



Bearded dragon enjoying a soak in hot water



Goats enjoying a treat after some training prep



African crowned crane reacting to new stimuli

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Two foxes looking for the chicken hidden around habitat