
Mackenzie Wheatley

(816) 500-2084

mackenzie.wheatley1214@gmail.com

15th September 2021

Cheetah Conservation Fund

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to signify my interest in filling a Zookeeper role in Namibia at the Cheetah Conservation Fund. I am confident in the education I have acquired during my time in the Zookeeping Technology (A.A.S.) program at Pikes Peak Community College, and my knowledge of the importance of zoological facilities as I have experience working in Guest Experiences at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs, CO, as well as experience working as a keeper aide at the Lee Richardson Zoo in Garden City, KS. I believe I am an exceptional candidate for this position and greatly appreciate your time and consideration. I also want to note that I am expanding my education and will begin an **online** Bachelors of Science in Zoology at Oregon State University this fall.

The career path I have chosen is so important to me as I know it can truly make an impact on the natural world, potentially playing a role in saving vulnerable and endangered species, like Cheetahs. I believe this internship would put me in the perfect position to reach my long-term goals as an animal care specialist and conservationist and would give me the opportunity to gain valuable first-hand experience in the wildlife conservation field, which is one of my biggest passions. I would love to be a key part of CCF's mission to "be the internationally recognized center of excellence in the conservation of cheetahs and their ecosystems." One of my largest goals for my life is to make a positive impact with my career, and I would love to make a difference with the CCF team in Namibia.

In my time working as a zookeeper thus far, I have learned the great importance of zoological facilities, and look forward to engaging with guests each day and helping them to connect with the natural world. One visit to a zoological facility can truly inspire individuals to make small changes in their everyday lives which leads to further conservation of wildlife and wild places. I hope to continue inspiring the individuals around me as a keeper at the Cheetah Conservation Fund, as well as learn even more about conservation. I am enthusiastic, passionate, and anxious to continue my career in the field, experiencing animal's native habitats and working directly to conserve them.

I currently work as a keeper aide where my responsibilities include, but are not limited to, preparing diets for ~300 exotic and Kansas native species, and caring for animals of all shapes and sizes, as I have experience with birds and small mammals, (i.e. honeyeaters, emu, Chinese hwamei, lemurs, Goeldi's monkeys) to large hoofstock and carnivores, (i.e. black rhinoceros, reticulated giraffe, Bactrian camel, Przewalski's horse, Pallas cat, Amur and snow leopards, sloth bear) with many species in between. I am dedicated to giving animals in my care only the best and look forward to expanding into the conservation field. I appreciate your careful consideration of my resume and I hope to talk with you soon to discuss what I can offer to the animal care team at CCF. Please reach me by phone at (816) 500-2084 or through my email, mackenzie.wheatley1214@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Mackenzie Wheatley

MACKENZIE WHEATLEY

• ZOOLOGY STUDENT •

ABOUT ME

Ambitious student completing a Zookeeping Technology (A.A.S.) degree and beginning a B.S. in Zoology, eager to contribute developed knowledge of animal husbandry and safety in a Cheetah Keeper/Conservation role. Adaptable and driven with a strong work ethic and ability to thrive in team-based or individually motivated settings. Diligent and hardworking with a passion for conservation, and promoting the utmost animal care to improve animal welfare in a zoological facility.

EDUCATION

Pikes Peak Community College - Colorado Springs, CO
Associate of Applied Science
Zookeeping Technology, Expected 12/2021

Oregon State University - Online
Bachelor of Science
Zoology, Expected 2025

EXPERIENCE

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

Guest Services

- Addressed and welcomed large volume of guests to zoo per day, improving overall customer service and engagement.
- Guaranteed guest satisfaction and positive experience through genuine, enthusiastic and friendly interactions.
- Educated guests regarding important information and directions to all areas of zoo, including exhibits, gift shop and restaurants.
- Supervised giraffe feedings to ensure safety of animal and guest.
- Impromptu keeper chats, sharing interesting species information to excite and inform zoo visitors.

2019-2021

Lee Richardson Zoo

Animal Care Aide

- Preps diets independently for ~300 native & exotic animals. Follows specific diet requirements while prepping food to ensure the health of animals in captivity, only utilizing the freshest ingredients available.
- Prepares and maintains records for animal management and documentation.
- Using knowledge of animal husbandry, individual cares for animals by properly cleaning, feeding, designing exhibits, administering medicine, and creating enrichment.
- Knowledge and experience working with a large variety of species (black rhinoceros, reticulated giraffe, large hoofstock, red panda, Pallas cat, birds, monkeys, and more) including Class 1 carnivores (sloth bear, Amur leopard, snow leopard).

2021-
Present

SKILLS

2019 - COMPLETED MAMMAL HUSBANDRY & INTRODUCTION TO CAPTIVE ANIMAL MANAGEMENT COURSES

2020 - COMPLETED INTRODUCTION TO ANIMAL TRAINING, ANIMAL BEHAVIOR, PRINCIPLES OF ANIMAL BIOLOGY, HERPETOLOGY, ZOONOTIC PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE, BIRD HUSBANDRY, & BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION COURSES

2021 - COMPLETED UNGULATES, WILD CANIDS, INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY, & APES COURSES

KEEPER CHAT & ETHOGRAM EXPERIENCE

KNOWLEDGE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT TRAINING, ENRICHMENT, AND ANIMAL/KEEPER SAFETY

FRIENDLY, POSITIVE ATTITUDE

RELIABLE AND TRUSTWORTHY

FLEXIBLE

FAST LEARNER

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

COMMUNICATION

GUEST ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES