

Rachel Georato

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Cheetah Conservation Fund
Otjiwarongo, Namibia

March 14, 2020

Dear Internship Coordinator,

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit my application for the Student Internship and Keeper position with the Cheetah Conservation Fund. What caught my eye about this organization is that not only is it working with cheetahs but it is also located in Africa. Cheetahs have always been my number one interest from a very young age, but I have also always had a passion for traveling. Learning the daily husbandry routines on how to care for these beautiful creatures would be a dream come true. I am also interested in other duties such as medical procedures or educating the public. My professional and academic experiences have prepared me for this role, and to truly be an asset to your team.

All of my professions leading up to this point have been in the customer service field, ranging from receptionist, to cashier, to waitress. These jobs have equipped me with exceptional people skills and verbal skills. I am able to learn quickly, multitask, and stay organized. Most of my animal experience comes from my schooling. Starting my junior year of high school, I joined an Animal and Plant Science class at the Seacoast School of Technology where I also joined the Future Farmers of America (FFA). This was a two year course that I completed my senior year, earning a certificate. Our class had an animal room with a variety of animals ranging from ferrets to birds to degus. At the time I joined the class, the degus were not habituated to human handling, so no one ever took them out as they were known for biting. I took it upon myself to take one out every day, and eventually started taking both out. By the end of my time in the class, I was able to walk around with both of them on my shoulders and they would even run down the line of desks over all the students' shoulders. The care and welfare of these animals was completely the responsibility of the students. We learned simple procedures such as cage upkeep, animal handling, taking temperatures, administering injections, and nail clipping. This class was the beginning of a journey that would lead me to what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

I am currently a student at Unity College, majoring in Captive Wildlife Care and Education and minoring in Zoology. Some classes I have taken that I believe have directly prepared me for this internship are Psychology, Interpretation of Natural and Cultural Heritage, Intro to Captive Wildlife Care and Education, Captive Wildlife Seminar, Animal Training, and Animal Behavior. My favorite class was Animal Training where we learned a great deal about operant conditioning and were able to train cats and mice using positive reinforcement. Our final exam in this class was to train a mouse to do three behaviors as fluid and flawlessly as possible and I got an A. These classes have prepared me to excel in animal welfare, husbandry, behavior, training, and public education. I am excited to expand on these skills and take in all that this internship has to offer.

I am an extremely passionate person; I have a great love and understanding for animals and feel that their conservation should be a priority. I have always felt a great connection to animals and other people. I feel that I am very approachable due to my friendly and bubbly personality. I work well in groups, as well as an individual, and I am not afraid to take charge if necessary. I can be a great asset to this team; not only do I feel as though I can give a lot but I am also looking forward to gaining more experience and am excited to learn.

Thank you for considering my application for the Student Internship and Keeper position with the Cheetah Conservation Fund, as this role is one I have always dreamed about. I hope to have the chance to discuss this opportunity further at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rachel Georato". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Rachel" and last name "Georato" clearly distinguishable.

Rachel Georato