4/12/2021

Erin Randall

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am very excited at the prospect of becoming a Winter 2021-22 intern for The Cheetah Conservation Fund. I have been planning a career around working with animals—especially large carnivores—for most of my life because of my passion and interest in their well-being. I believe it is increasingly important to do what we can to preserve the species that we share this Earth with and develop excellent education programs. I was very inspired to learn about all the CCF does for cheetahs, both captive and wild. The chance to be involved in the LGD and Creamery program to assist local farmers is absolutely a dream come true. On a more personal level I am also looking forward to getting to know the animals as individuals. I love learning about the unique personalities that animals have; their quirks, likes, dislikes, and what forms of enrichment will be most rewarding for them.

I believe myself qualified for this position because of my unique experience with working with exotic animals. I interned for a wildlife ranch last summer and therefore have no illusions about the amount of work and stress involved in this particular position. I enjoy getting up early in the mornings and I realize that cleaning enclosures and preparing diets is physically demanding. I am well-equipped to meet these demands and have practice doing so. While working with the animals is highly enjoyable and very rewarding, there are also times that bring heartache and require mental fortitude. During the summer at the ranch, we lost a month-old llama to heatstroke and a capybara to internal bleeding after it collided with the enclosure fencing during a storm. Because of these experiences, I am extra diligent in ensuring all animals in the facility are comfortable and putting their needs above mine own. I am also well aware that even professional, long-term staff must maintain an attitude of caution around wild animals, because they remain unpredictable and require respect. In addition, I consider myself a ‘people-person’ and look forward to getting to know staff members and any other interns. I bring a high level of enthusiasm and excitement to each day of work and work well with a wide range of personalities. I am very goal-driven and do well meeting time constraints. I am a very capable presenter and feel very comfortable speaking to guests about the animals and addressing concerns.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application. I would be a valuable addition to the CCF and would strive to better the lives of both the animals and people I come across. I look forward to hearing your response!

Best regards,

