

Animal Care & Husbandry Careers

Positions in Animal Care and Husbandry

Animal care and husbandry positions are varied. All of them require significant animal care experience, often with a wide variety of animals. Examples of positions include:

Research Assistant	Apiarist	Animal Caretaker
Lab Animal Technician	Breeding Program Technician	Wildlife Rehabilitation
Veterinary Assistant	Aquarist/Zookeeper	And More...

Animal Care/Husbandry Career Information Links:

The American Zoological Association: https://www.aza.org/careers_in_zoos_and_aquariums

American Association of Laboratory Animal Science: <https://www.aalas.org/careerline/careers#.V-1YfSErKUK>

USA Jobs (Government Positions): <https://www.usajobs.gov/>

International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council: <https://thewrc.org/>

National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association: <http://www.nwrawildlife.org/>

Recommended Courses

There are no generally required courses for animal care and husbandry positions. The following list includes coursework aimed at acquiring knowledge of animal diversity, behavior, and organismal biology.

Organismal Biology Courses	Pre(Co)requisites	Term	Credits
Z 371: Vertebrate Biology and Z 372: Laboratory	BI 211, 212, 213	F	3+2
Z 361: Invertebrate Biology and Z 362: Laboratory OR Z 461: Marine and Estuarine Invertebrate Biology	BI 211, 212, 213	SP SU	3+2 4
FW 315: Ichthyology and FW 316: Systematics of Fishes	BI 211, 212, 213	All	3/3
FW 317: Mammalogy and FW 318: Systematics of Mammals	BI 211, 212, 213	All	3/2
FW 311: Ornithology and FW 312: Systematics of Birds	BI 211, 212, 213	All	3/2
FW 427: Principles of Wildlife Diseases	Junior Standing	SP, SU	4
Skills Courses	Pre(Co)requisites	Term	Credits
ANS 311: Principles of Animal Nutrition	BI 211, 212	F, SU	3
ANS 316: Reproduction in Domestic Animals and ANS 317: Laboratory	BI 211, CH 231, ANS 121	W, SP	4/1
ANS 441: Topics in Animal Learning	BI 211, 212	W	3
FW 328: Wildlife Capture and Immobilization		F, W, SU	2
Behavior Courses	Pre(Co)requisites	Term	Credits
Z 350: Animal Behavior	BI 211, 212, 213	All	3
PSY 201 or 202: General Psychology		All	3
PSY 340: Cognition	PSY 201, PSY 202	All	4
PSY 381: Abnormal Psychology	PSY 201, PSY 202	All	4
PSY 485: Behavioral Modification	PSY 350/380/381/481	All	4

Animal Care Career Development Opportunities

Animal Care Experience

Gaining experience in your field of interest can be key to advancing your career. Students should focus on the quality of experience rather than the species of animal, as any relevant experience will facilitate an understanding of animal care/husbandry. Regional opportunities include:

- Oregon Zoo

<http://www.oregonzoo.org/>

- Oregon Coast Aquarium

<http://www.aquarium.org>

- Wildlife Safari

<https://wildlifesafari.net/>

- Chintimini Wildlife Center

<https://www.chintiminiwildlife.org/>

- Heartland Humane Society

<http://heartlandhumane.org/>

- Safehaven Humane Society

<https://safehavenhumane.org/>

- Hatfield Marine Science Center

<http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/>

- Hatfield Marine Science Center Aquarist Volunteers

Contact : <http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/users/colleen-doyle>

Research Opportunities

Research, while not required, can be particularly beneficial for laboratory animal care positions or for students interested in working with organizations with research as part of their mission. Research provides the opportunity to develop analytical and communication skills while expanding understanding of the scientific process and research methods. Some research labs also have specific opportunities to care for research animals. Find more information at:

<http://ib.oregonstate.edu/professional/research-internships>

Informal Education

For students interested in careers with zoos, aquariums and other public institutions, communicating with the public can be important for many positions. The following courses can be excellent preparation:

- COMM 111: Public Speaking, and additional COMM Courses
- SED 431: Overview of Free-Choice Learning
- SED 535: Communicating Ocean Science
- TRAL 493: Environmental Interpretation

International Opportunities

OSU GO has diverse international internship experiences that enable students to acquire experience handling and caring for captive/wild animals. Navigate to Veterinary & Animal Care at the following link for aligned programming:

<http://international.oregonstate.edu/osugo/academic-resources/go-abroad-your-major/biology-and-zoology>