



**An interview with ANSC Major Tracey O'Brien  
Regarding her LEO Zoological Conservation Center  
Internship**

*(Connecticut, Summer 2012)*

**Q: Where did you intern, and when? What was your status? (i.e. sophomore, junior, etc...)**

I interned at LEO Zoological Conservation Center in Greenwich, Connecticut during the summer of 2012. I was sophomore about to enter my junior year.

**Q: Was it a paid internship? What did you do there?**

This internship is unpaid, however the hands on animal experience with exotic animals was well worth it. I was originally accepted as a marketing and development intern (which is no longer offered) where I assisted the office manager and director of the zoo brainstorm fundraising events, network on social media as well as with visitors, and work on the new website. For 3 weeks I covered for a shadowing intern who went on vacation, where I shadowed a zookeeper who worked with mainly small animals such as Dusky Titis, Tamanduas, African Striped Hyenas, and more. I prepared food, cleaned the animal enclosures, performed behavioral and health observations, and got hands on experience. We also took a trip to Cape May County Zoo in New Jersey, where we watched our zoo veterinarian perform a necropsy on a Colobus Monkey who had passed away this past summer.

**Q: When did you apply for this internship?**

I applied for this internship in March of 2012.

**Q: How long did the internship last?**

End of June though mid-August.



**Q: How did you learn about this opportunity?**

Via the Department of Animal Science Internship website as well as contact with Dr. Milvae.

**Q: Anything else you'd like to add about your experience?**

My internship is no longer offered and my experience was different from the experience future interns will receive. If they get the internship, they will shadow a zookeeper in one of five sections of the zoo, assisting with feeding, cleaning, health and behavioral observations, and more. They will work five days a week for 9 hours, but may not get the weekends off. For example, they could receive Tuesday and Wednesdays off. It is worth it to get that close to animals such as giraffes, cheetahs, lemurs, orangutans, warthogs, and more! Also, while I was doing my marketing internship, I relayed to the staff that I was much more interested in animal care, so they allowed me to assist in the kitchen making food, as well as covering for interns taking a day off. This allowed me to see all of the sections of the zoo, where most shadowing interns only become familiar with one section.

**Q: What is your current status (*i.e. sophomore, etc...*) and what is your area of interest as an ANSC major?**

I am a junior interested in Wildlife Conservation Medicine

**Q: So, what are your plans when you graduate?**

My plans are to attend Veterinary School while receiving my masters in Wildlife Conservation Medicine at St. George's University (hopefully).

**Q: If someone has questions, can they contact you regarding your internship experience?**

Yes, at [tracey.o'brien@uconn.edu](mailto:tracey.o'brien@uconn.edu) or e-mail the Zoo at [info@leozoo.org](mailto:info@leozoo.org).