

# BLANK PARK

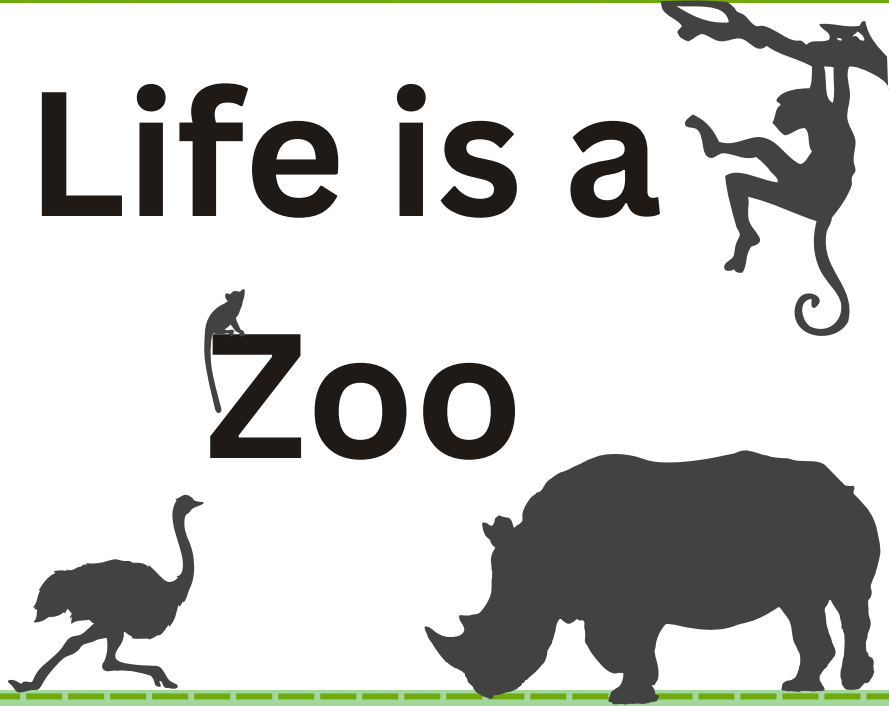


## IOWA'S WILDEST ADVENTURE

Animal Commissary Intern

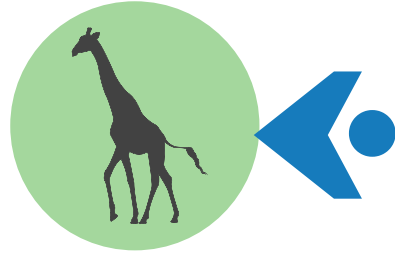
Elizabeth Abbitt

# Life is a Zoo



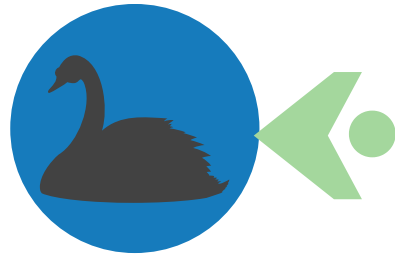
## DES MOINES IOWA

May 22nd - July 31st



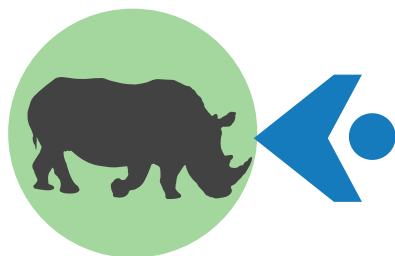
### MAIN TASK 1

Daily diet preparation for over 1400 animals. Measuring and cutting produce to the requirements of each animal.



### MAIN TASK 2

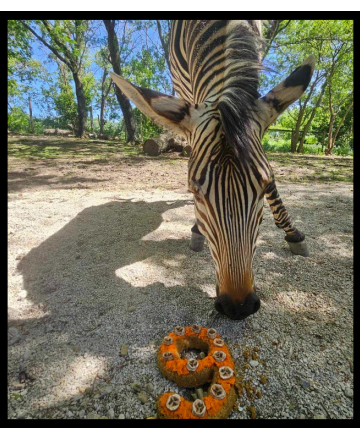
Sanitization of dishes and kitchen surfaces to prevent contamination of diets.



### MAIN TASK 3

Animal maintenance within Quarantine, including daily feeding, cleaning, and disinfections.

## New Experiences



Through this internship, I could view the diet plans for each animal at the zoo. This allowed me to recognize how much thought goes into creating a diet for each animal.



I was also able to enter quarantine and learn/practice the biosecurity protocols for different species: Reptile, Amphibian, Mammal, Avian

### Skill Development

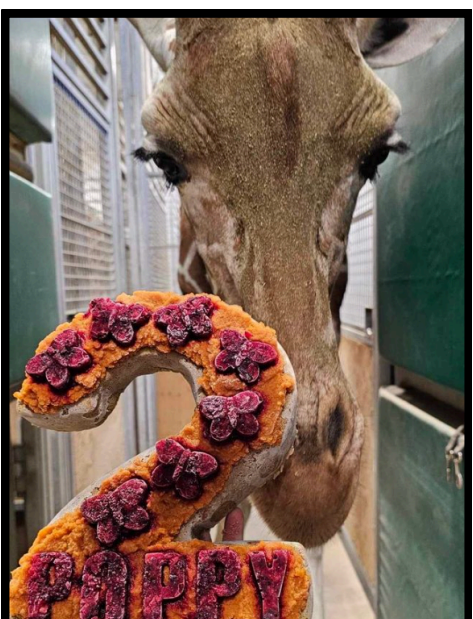
- Cutting skills and knife safety
- Biosecurity protocols and medicating strategies to reduce stress
- Organization strategies for feed orders and specialty orders

## IMPACT

This internship allowed me to network and meet a majority of the teams at the Blank Park Zoo. It also taught me about workplace family.

I was by far the youngest member of my team which encouraged my coworkers to teach me and take me under their wing in a sense.

I believe that this internship has helped me grow professionally and given me contacts that will help me as I continue on my path.



## Internship Advice

Internships help you grow as a professional by encouraging networking and giving you opportunities to learn about your future career before diving headfirst. Many people think that you absolutely need an internship in order to get your dream job but this isn't necessarily true. Just keep in mind the benefits that an internship will bring and what you would do with your time instead of an internship. Then weigh the pros and cons to decide what is best for you.