

Internship report Zoo Zagreb



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Foreword

This report describes the student's learning objectives during his internship at Zoo Zagreb

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1. Learning objectives

Learning objective 1

Within six weeks, I can name three ways in which chimpanzees communicate with each other, and I can recognize and describe at least one example when observed.

Learning objective 2

At the end of my internship, I can participate in an unsupervised training session of the sea lions, where I can perform at least two basic exercises (such as target or staying on station) in a safe and correct way according to the zoo's training plan.

Learning objective 3

At the end of my internship, I will be able to collaborate and communicate effectively with my international colleagues in English, showing that I adapt to the local pace of work.

Learning objective 4

I want to have created a new enrichment for me by the end of my internship so that I can apply this in my work later on.

2. Reflect

Learning objective 1: Within six weeks, I can name three ways in which chimpanzees communicate with each other, and I can recognize and describe at least one example when observed.

I achieved this because I can now see that chimpanzees: reach out to each other and when they grab each other this is a sign of their mutual bond, they also groom and this has to do with the hierarchy, and if they kind of purse their lips then there may be some kind of attack to show their strength.

Learning objective 2: At the end of my internship, I can participate in a training session of the sea lions without supervision, where I can perform at least two basic exercises (such as target or staying on station) in a safe and correct way according to the zoo's training plan.

I have achieved this learning goal. During my internship I worked a lot with sea lion Pamela and I did a number of exercises with her. I got Pamela to my fist as a target, and at her station. In addition, I could also look into her mouth and she gave me her flippers so that I could also check them for abnormalities. I was able to do all this independently so I achieved my learning goal.



Learning objective 3: At the end of my internship, I will be able to collaborate and communicate effectively with my international colleagues in English, showing that I adapt to the local work pace.

I think I have also achieved this learning goal. Speaking English with colleagues actually went very well, some colleagues didn't speak the English language very well but this didn't really matter. We learned some words in Croatian and with hands and feet work you get very far. Furthermore, adjusting to the work pace has also worked out quite well I think. In the Netherlands, we are used to working very hard and being constantly on. Here it is slightly different, because of the 12-hour shift that the animal caretakers make here, they work a little slower during the day with a little more breaks. This took a lot of getting used to in the beginning, but in the end we managed to keep up with the pace of the colleagues

Learning objective 4: I want to have created a new enrichment for me by the end of my internship so that I can apply this in my work later on.

I have certainly achieved this learning goal. In our first week we made a hammock from fire hoses for the bears. Furthermore, later in the internship we made an enormous enrichment for the capuchin monkeys. This was all very fun and educational because I learned a lot about the technical side of animal care such as drilling and all kinds of other things.

