

# Animal Care Internship at Zootah

Jonah Fronk, *Utah State University* | Dr. Kimberly Sullivan, *Utah State University* | Troy Cooper, Zoo Director

## Introduction

The management at Zootah offers a flexible internship program for people of all interests. My internship focused on animal care, especially the husbandry of reptiles and amphibians, enrichment, training, and increasing tractability.

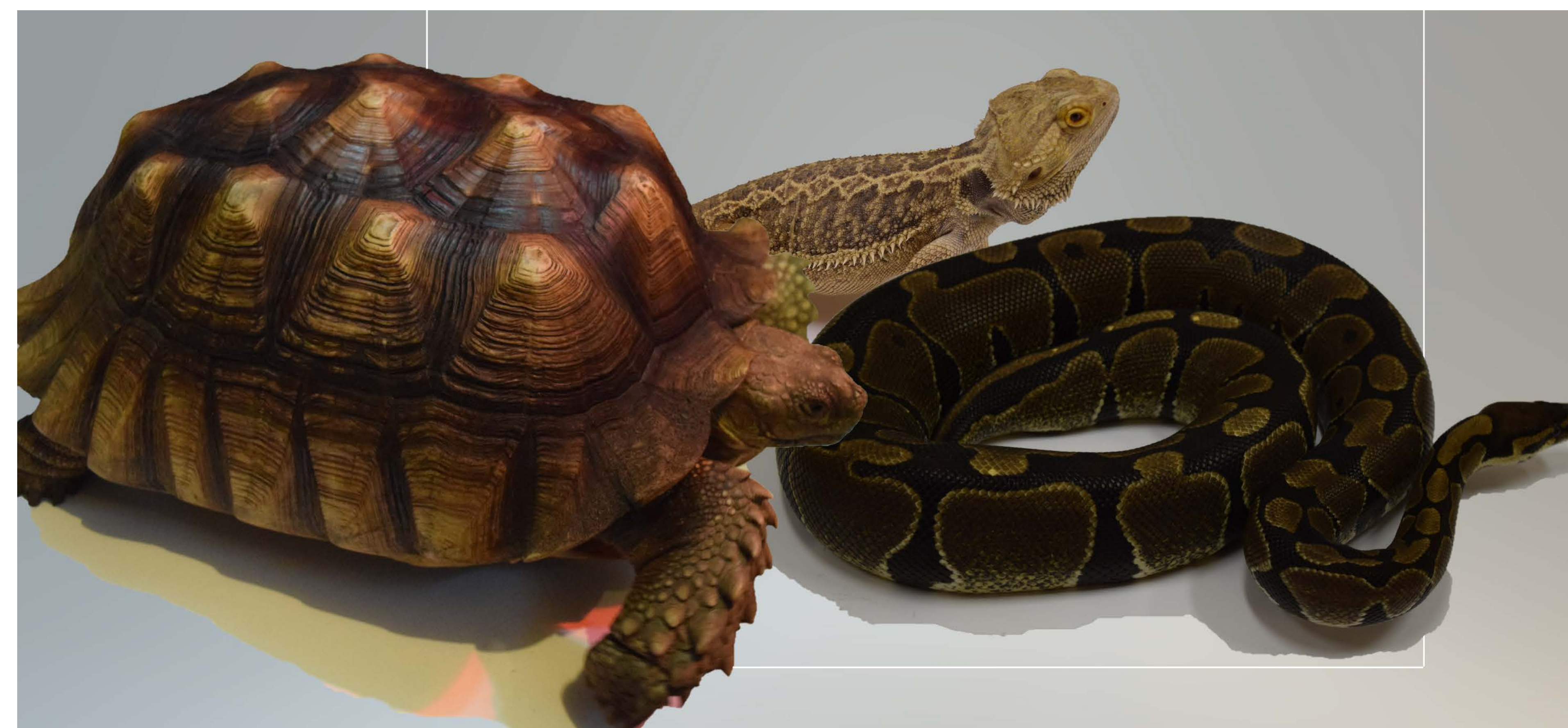


Jonah Fronk  
Utah State University  
Department of Biology  
Jafronk8@gmail.com

## Experience

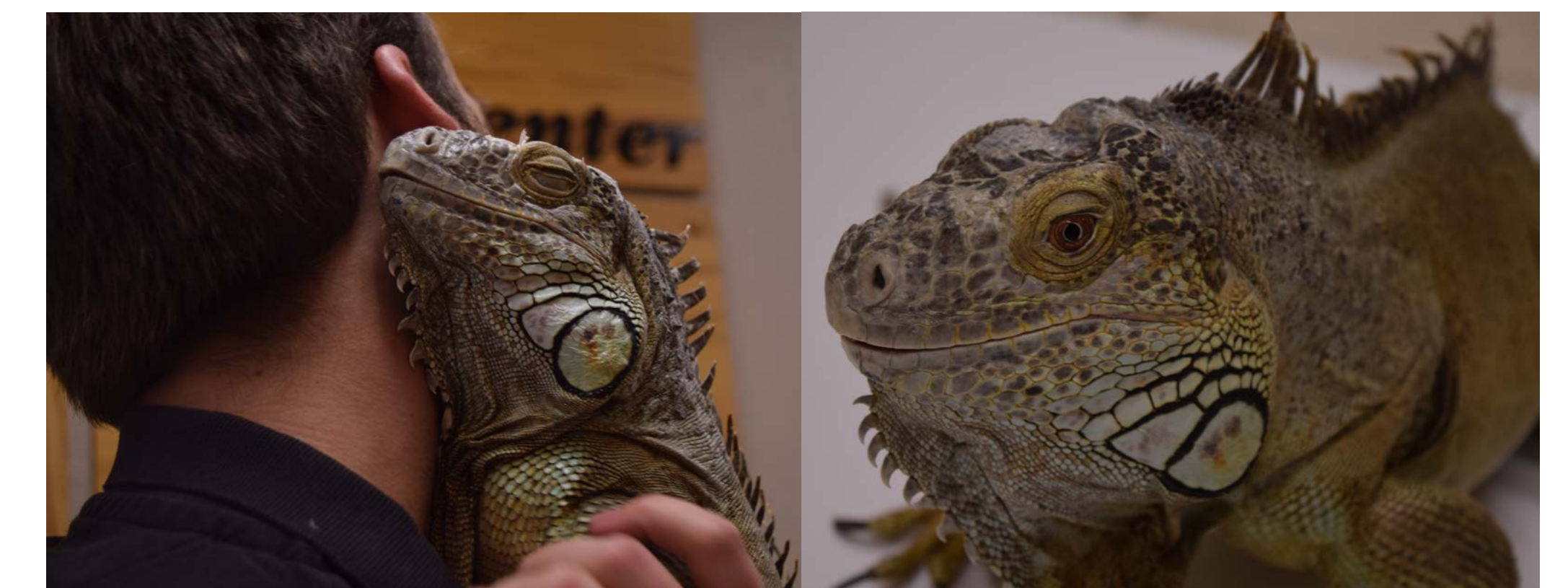
As a zookeeper, I regularly took part in these activities:

- Feeding animals, and cleaning their environments
- Preparing diets
- Handling small animals and shifting large animals
- Grounds maintenance
- Running admissions and the gift shop
- Presenting ambassador animals to the public
- Researching animals, and putting new knowledge into practice

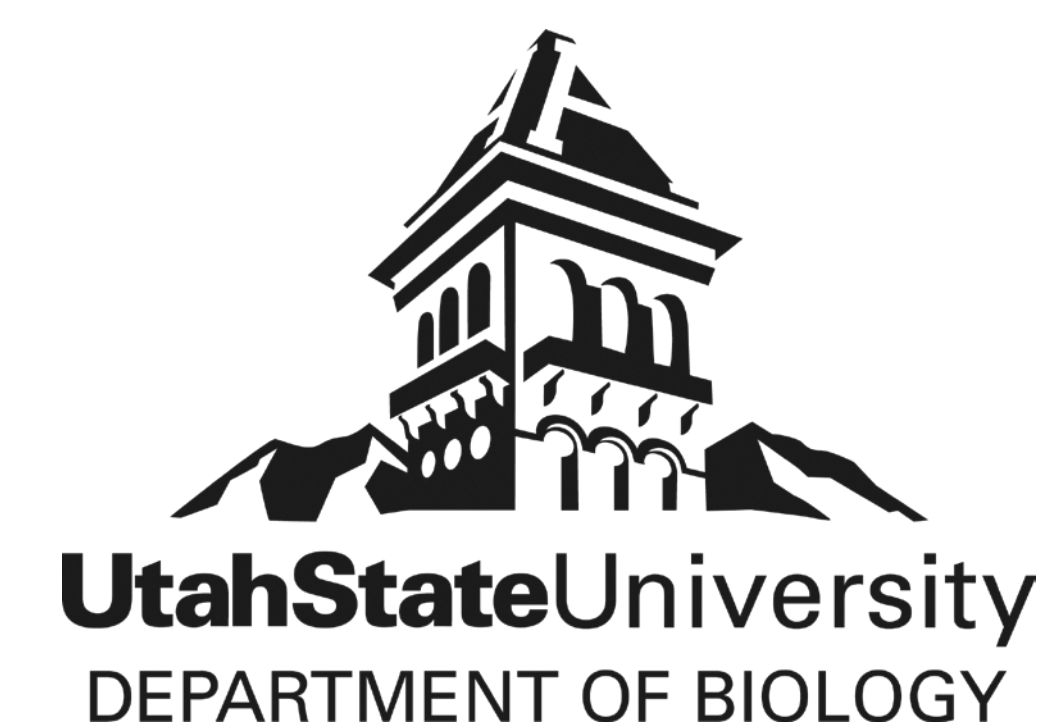


Above: The zoo has a sizable collection of reptiles including sulcata tortoises, a bearded dragon, and a ball python.

Left: I regularly handled a variety of animals small animals at the zoo. The blue throated macaw in the left hand corner is a rare species, with only a few hundred left in the wild.



I had the opportunity of working with Gojira, an adult female green iguana. She was donated to the zoo because her past owners found her overly aggressive. With consistent handling, she has become amazingly docile.



## Conclusions

I gained valuable experience with over 50 different species of animal, and general experience in the work place. This internship provides a good stepping stone for anyone who is looking to work with exotic animals.

