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January 16, [REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern:

I will graduate in March [REDACTED] from the University of [REDACTED] with a double degree in History and Wildlife Conservation. While I am only 22 years old, I have nearly eight years of zoo experience, starting as a freshman in high school when I began volunteering at [REDACTED] Zoo in [REDACTED]. Since then, I have accumulated extensive experience with care, feeding, training, enrichment, and record-keeping for a wide assortment of captive animals, from invertebrates to large mammals and almost everything in between. This has included involvement in numerous operant conditioning training regimens and the development of several environmental enrichment plans.

Having worked extensively at two world-class zoos, I understand the incredible ability that zoos have to advocate for conservation and education, and I also realize that zookeeping is difficult and challenging work. I have experience working with a range of hoofstock species, including domestic stock, lowland anoa, reindeer, and giraffe. That includes day-to-day care as well as either assisting with or helping to develop training plans for giraffe, lowland anoa, and infant domestic goats, and the development of an environmental enrichment plan for lowland anoa. Ungulates are my favorite animals and I cannot imagine a more exciting job than one caring for exotic hoofstock.

If given the opportunity, I believe that I would bring an uncommon passion and enthusiasm to this position. I am an extremely hard and enthusiastic worker. I have excellent interpersonal skills, and I can work equally well individually or in a team. While I do have a solid base of general animal knowledge to draw on, I am always open to new ideas, suggestions, and criticisms - something I know would be critical as a new keeper. I am a quick learner and I am more than willing to perform any task assigned to me. I also especially enjoy any opportunity for public education; my background with mock trial (an activity that is heavy on public speaking) has given me the ability to be an outstanding, articulate ambassador for the zoo. My references will confirm that I am passionate, hardworking, extremely dedicated to zoo work, and would be an outstanding addition to the [REDACTED] Zoo team.

Thank you very much for your consideration of my resume. I realize that words on a page cannot fully do a person justice, and I welcome an interview at any time through phone or Skype. I can also be available for an in-person interview in [REDACTED] at your request.

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