

KEEPER INTERVIEW – CARNIVORES



First Name & Title: *Beth, Carnivore Zookeeper*

List the animals you are responsible for:

African wild dogs, African lions, Spotted Hyena

How many years have you worked at the Denver Zoo? *Since 2002*

How many years have you been a keeper? *Since 1995*

Why did you become a keeper?

Love of animals & dedication to preserving wildlife and the environment.

What is your background?

B.S. in wildlife science. Internship and 2 seasonal positions for a summer at Indianapolis Zoo. Volunteered at Wild Oaks Zoo in Alabama. Worked full time for 6 years at Indianapolis Zoo.

Briefly describe your "typical" day or your primary job duties.

Animal observations; diet preparation; cleaning & general upkeep of exhibits and enclosures; operant conditioning training; providing enrichment; public demonstrations/education; record keeping.

What do you like most about your job?

I like the daily interaction with the animals through training and enrichment and also the public demonstration/education.

What is the most difficult part of your job?

The most difficult part of the job is when an animal dies.

Tell us something interesting about the animals you work with.

They all have such interesting & amazing personalities. They always keep you guessing and growing as a keeper.

What advice do you have for students interested in pursuing a career as a zookeeper?

Volunteer and do internships to get yourself known at the zoo.