



Tribe Talk

Zoo Keeping

Upper School 10, 11, 12

Conservation Through Exciting Education



Animal Enclosure Assessment

Zoo Keepers are involved in the design and creation of enclosures. Enclosures are designed to replicate an animal's natural habitat and enable visitors to observe them with as little obstruction as possible.

Some of the criteria we take into account are:

- Shelter/Shade – Most animals require shelter from the weather. This might include shade from heat, warmth from the cold, or sometimes shelter from the rain, or a place to go when feeling threatened.
- Water/Feed – All animals need food and most need to drink water. How is this to be provided?
- Fencing/Visibility – Fences need to be functional; keeping animals and patrons safe, but also enable good viewing of the animal.
- Building Materials – Enclosures need to be constructed out of materials that are not going to injure the animals or make them sick.
- Cleanliness/Hygiene – Enclosures need to be kept clean and tidy. This includes attending to things like rubbish and debris, faeces, leaf and vegetation litter, feed trays/bowls etc.
- Accessibility – Enclosures need to be wheelchair and pram friendly.
- Education/Interpretation – Information needs to be easily accessible, either via signage, keepers on hand, written info etc.

Using this information as a guide, assess your chosen enclosure.

ANIMAL ENCLOSURE: _____

CRITERIA	HOW HAS THE CRITERIA BEEN ACHIEVED?
Shade and Shelter	
Water and Feed	
Fencing/Visibility	
Building Materials	
Cleanliness/Hygiene	
Accessibility	
Education/ Interpretation	

Zoo Keeping

1. What is Australia Zoo's Motto:

2. Name at least 5 teams Zoo Keepers are involved in at Australia Zoo:

3. List any jobs/duties that an Australia Zoo Keeper is involved with and list any you believe are unique to Australia Zoo:

4. Do you think that there are any myths about zoo keepers and zoo keeping amongst the general public? Comments?:

5. Australia Zoo offers a volunteer program to people interested in becoming Zoo Keepers. How do you think this would benefit people who are considering this type of career?

6. During your visit to Australia Zoo
a. Did you see any Zoo Keepers?

b. What task/s were they involved in?

c. Did you attend an animal demonstration? Do you have any comments on the keepers' presentation?

7. Imagine you are the Animal Curator at Australia Zoo and you are advertising for a Zoo Keeper position in a local newspaper. Write the advertisement, which must include a brief job description and an outline of any personal attributes the successful applicants should possess.

Conservation Through Exciting Education