

Zoo Technology: Overview

In zoos, the zoo keepers have a critical role in the care and welfare of the animals and as the animals' ambassadors to the public. As environmental and animal rights issues move to the forefront, zoos need keepers with technical expertise and a knowledge of science to provide the best animal care, educate the public and participate in regional, national and international cooperative programs. Surprisingly, there has not been a comprehensive textbook targeted to the modern profession of zoo keeper in North America.

The profession of zoo keeper has evolved to one of an animal manager with a technical and scientific background who serves as an ambassador of endangered species. Zoo keepers must have a working, practical knowledge of animal care, welfare & husbandry, an appreciation of the issues facing endangered species and the environment, an understanding of biological principles, the ability to interact with the public, and a broad perspective of the larger zoo community. Increasingly, zoo keepers need to professionally network, and synchronize their efforts globally. As populations of endangered species dwindle, the role of zoos and zoo keepers will become more important.

Zoo Technology will feature topics by authors who are experts in areas of relevance to progressive zoo keepers. The editors are established members of the zoo and academic communities. The book is intended to be an all-encompassing overview of basic zoo keeping theory, zoo operation and the most common practical techniques of zoo animal management. It will promote consistency and the highest standards of zoo animal care. Recommended readings will be provided for readers seeking more in-depth information on a particular topic. The book will be of value to entry-level keepers seeking an orientation to the career and will serve as a reference for established zoo personnel.