

Animal Training Career Growth

Being an animal trainer requires quite a bit of experience working with animals and understanding animal behavior. Besides earning a college degree and working at internships, trainers can also increase their knowledge by working with other trainers to share techniques, skills, and ideas. Whether it is at their own facility or other facilities, collaborating with other trainers helps everyone improve their knowledge and care of the animals they work with.

Two professional organizations that encourage and facilitate collaboration among trainers are the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the International Marine Animal Trainers' Association (IMATA).

Research online the mission and values/promises of each organization on their websites and record them here:

AZA Mission: _____

AZA Promises: _____

IMATA Mission: _____

IMATA Values: _____

Not all zoos and aquariums can house and care for all types of animals. If trainers have specific animals they want to work with, they often must move to where the animals are located. Pick one of the following animals and research three zoos or aquariums that care for these animals.

Polar bear

Beluga whale

Gorilla

Emperor penguin

Clouded leopard

California condor

Chosen animal: _____

Zoo or aquarium locations:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____