



Careers Working with **Marine Animals**

Working with marine animals is a rewarding, challenging and fun career! There is a diversity of job options as well as locations that allow you to work closely with a variety of marine animals such as dolphins, whales, seals, sea lions, sharks and exotic fish.



If you are interested in working with marine animals, here are a few things you should know before getting started.

- Many careers that involve working with marine animals require a four-year college degree and/or a specialized degree in a certain area of interest.
- Some areas to further explore during your studies include agriculture, biology, marine biology, zoology, animal behavior, animal science, animal care, psychology, environmental science, duties of a veterinary technician and veterinary medicine.
- Experience in public speaking and communication is extremely valuable and plays an important role in many animal-related occupations.
- Serving as an intern and/or a volunteer is a great way to gain hands-on experience and to get your foot in the door. There are many marine animal organizations and rehabilitation centers that offer internships and/or volunteer programs. However, any intern or volunteer experience with animals is helpful, (i.e. vet clinic, animal shelter, horse ranch, zoo or aquarium).

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| Job Title | Requirements & Qualifications |
|--|---|
| Animal Keeper | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four-year degree preferred • Desire to work with animals • Ability to lift 50 pounds • Good communication skills, both written and verbal • Good customer service skills  |
| Animal Trainer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four-year degree preferred • Desire to work with animals • Ability to lift 50 pounds • Strong public speaking skills and showmanship • Good customer service skills • CPR and First Aid certification • Strong swimming ability and SCUBA certification for marine mammal trainers • Concentration on behavior modification  |
| Aquarist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.S. degree in Marine Biology, Marine Science or other related field • CPR and First Aid certification • Ability to lift 50 pounds • Good communication skills, both written and verbal • Good customer service skills • SCUBA certification |
| Educator (Aquarium, Zoo, Wildlife) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four-year degree • Formal or informal teaching experience • Skills in curriculum and program development • Strong communication skills, both written and verbal • Good customer service skills • Likes to work with people • Conservation-minded  |
| Marine Mammal Scientist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced academic degree (M.S. and/or PhD) • Practical experience in field research applications • Grant writing experience • Experience with statistical analysis   |
| Marine Policy Coordinator/Enforcer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic degree (B.S. or higher) • Desire to work for marine issues • Strong communication skills, both written and verbal • No record of felonies (for government positions)  |
| Stranding Coordinator/Rehabilitator | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be able to work outside in the elements • Desire to work with animals • Ability to lift 50 pounds • Good communication skills, both written and verbal |
| Veterinary Technician/Technologist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterinary Technician License, Certification or Registration • Veterinary Technician is a Diploma Program • Veterinary Technology is a Degree Program • Desire to work with animals |
| Veterinarian | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterinary medical degree (D.V.M. or V.M.D.) • Desire to work with animals • Good customer service skills  |

| General Duties & Responsibilities | Potential Employers | Salary |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain clean and safe living conditions for the animals Daily cleaning of habitats and other related work areas Prepare diets and monitor nutrition needs Monitor water quality Provide behavioral enrichment and observation Assist with arranging social groupings and handling of the animals for husbandry procedures Transport animals |  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoological parks Aquariums Permitted private collections Rehabilitation centers Adventure parks | <p>\$15,000 - \$60,000</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the health and well-being of the animals Daily cleaning of habitats and other related work areas Prepare diets and monitor nutritional needs Provide enrichment, exercise and training through operant conditioning Understand the use of positive reinforcement to reward desired behaviors and build relationships with the animals Observe physical and behavioral changes in the animals Interact with the public by giving fun and engaging presentations demonstrating animal characteristics and behaviors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoological parks Aquariums Permitted private collections Adventure parks | <p>\$18,000 - \$60,000</p>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance of live exhibits Regular cleaning of live exhibits and habitats Prepare diets and monitor nutritional needs Life support checks that focus on all mechanical and electrical operations of the exhibits Water quality analysis Aquaculture of food sources such as Artemia, rotifers and microalgae | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoological parks Aquariums Adventure parks Hotels or restaurants featuring aquatic environments Aquaculture organizations | <p>\$20,000 - \$60,000</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a wide variety of education and interpretive lessons for all ages Follow current science standards Responsible for handling live animals to enhance presentations Manage programs of children, adults and mixed audiences Evaluate programs and analyze results Write articles for publications, both printed and online |  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoological parks Aquariums Sanctuaries Reserves Nature centers Adventure parks Federal, state and city government agencies | <p>\$18,000 - \$60,000</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work in specialized areas such as biological oceanography, fisheries or marine mammalogy May work in the realm of applied science or basic science Teach science courses Conduct research studies Observe and collect data on marine animal behavior, ecology and social structure such as population dynamics, foraging and breeding strategies Conduct long term assessments of environmental quality using marine mammals as indicators of ecological change and establish baseline data that can be used for conservation purposes Analyze data in a scientific laboratory Research genetic and evolutionary relationships of marine mammals Study marine mammal anatomy, physiology and geographic distribution Conduct statistical analysis of data | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoological parks Aquariums Colleges Universities Research labs Federal, state and city government agencies | <p>\$20,000 - \$70,000</p>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, evaluate and enforce a variety of government policies and how they affect the ocean and ocean animals Responsible for determining, enforcing and revising specific regulations for commercial and public use of marine environments Facilitate field operation, staff and logistics Able to respond quickly to an operational crisis Raise public awareness through community, media and agency outreach Oversee annual operation plan and budgets Facilitate effective communication among stakeholders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-profit environmental organizations Federal, state and city government agencies such as APHIS, NOAA Fisheries, NOAA Sanctuaries | <p>\$20,000 - \$65,000</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to reports of stranded animals and rescue as necessary Transport animals from the field to a rehabilitation center or clinic Collect samples from rescued animals Administer treatments, assist veterinary staff as needed Prepare animals for release or placement in human care Assist in necropsies and report results as required |  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoological parks Aquariums Sanctuaries Reserves Non-profit environmental organizations | <p>\$16,000 - \$45,000</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect specimens and samples from animals Administer treatments Conduct clinical laboratory diagnostic tests to establish information for each animal Vet "tech" maintains animal medical records Assist veterinarian and research staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veterinary offices Zoological parks Aquariums Permitted private collections Research organizations Teaching colleges | <p>\$18,000 - \$55,000</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversee all aspects of animal health care Practice preventative health care Train staff to implement voluntary medical exams for sample collections such as blood, urine, fecal and others Skilled diagnostician Conduct medical research on topics such as physiology and disease |  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veterinary offices Zoological parks Aquariums Permitted private collections | <p>\$55,000 - \$130,000</p>  |

Careers in the animal field can be the most



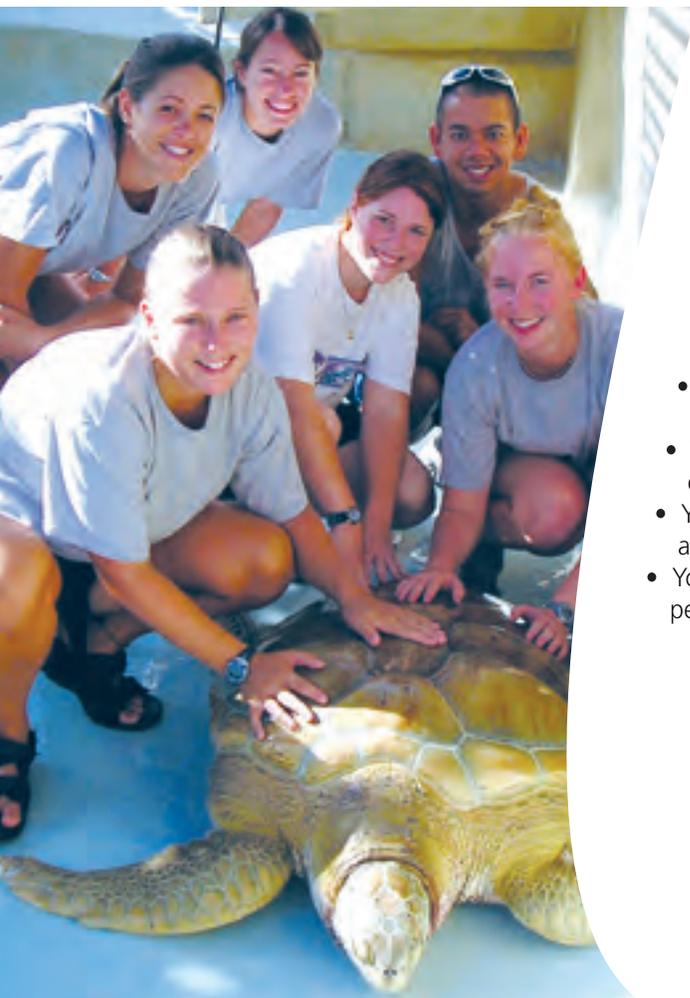
Careers in the animal field are extremely varied and can be the most rewarding jobs of a lifetime. A love for animals and their well-being, as well as a strong work ethic, are the first prerequisites to these demanding jobs. Take time to explore and research the various jobs and opportunities available to you and decide what is best for you to reach your goals.

Developing goals for yourself can be a good way to discover what you want from your career and what you can give your career. Here are a few questions you should ask yourself to help you narrow down your career path.

- What interests me most about animals?
- Would I like working with animals, including cleaning up after them?
- Do I like to work with people?
- Do I want to work outdoors?
- Am I a good communicator?
- What skills or talents do I have that stand out?
- Do I want to continue my studies in higher education?
- Am I willing to work weekends and holidays?

By answering these questions you can begin to direct your explorations into animal careers and set goals for achieving the career of your choice. Examples:

- You like animals, are interested in animal behavior and psychology, like to share information with people and like physical work—you could be an animal trainer!
- You have good observation skills, are patient, analytical and like the outdoors—you could be a field researcher!
- You enjoy children, are a good organizer, like to have fun and enjoy studying about animals and sharing knowledge with others—you could be an educator!
- You are interested in law and policy, are organized, diplomatic, like working with people and like variety in what you do—you could be a marine policy maker!



rewarding jobs of a lifetime!



If you are considering working with animals, the earlier you begin to pursue the right kind of education and experience the better. Here are some ways you can get started:

- **Junior and Senior High School** - Emphasize your studies in math and science. A strong background will help when pursuing a science degree in college.
- **Undergraduate Degree** - Emphasize your studies in marine biology, biology, zoology, animal behavior, animal science, psychology and environmental science.
- **Internships** - Apply with organizations and governmental agencies that allow students to gain professional experience.
- **Volunteer** - Gain experience and provide community service by volunteering at a zoo, aquarium, nature center, wildlife rehabilitation center, animal shelter or veterinary clinic.

A career working with marine animals is not just a career choice, it is a lifestyle choice. Here are some things to consider:

- **Flexibility** - This is not a 9 - 5 job. Animals need to be cared for on weekends, holidays and sometimes throughout the night.
- **Salary** - Positions pay from slightly above minimum wage to more than \$40,000/year with tenure. Salaries vary greatly depending on the position, location and type of organization.
- **Competition** - There are always more applicants than positions available. Competition is stiff and relocation is often necessary to gain experience and secure a full-time position.





Here's your chance to do an internship!



Dolphin Quest's Internship Program

Our internship program in Bermuda is designed to assist college students, recent graduates and other interested individuals from all over the world in gaining valuable experience working at a marine animal organization. Internships have proven to be an extremely important step in beginning a career with or around marine animals. Dolphin Quest offers internships to help prepare those interested in pursuing a career at a marine animal organization. These internships are available throughout the year and are also open to international applicants.

Dolphin Quest interns will gain exposure to all aspects of an interactive environment while developing knowledge and skills in animal training, informal education programs, animal care, guest interaction and customer service. The duties of each intern may vary depending on staff and animal needs, and the individual abilities of the intern.

To find out more about our internship program, the application requirements and the desired qualifications please visit the Jobs & Internships section on our Web site at dolphinquest.com.



Here's what others are saying!

"The level of professionalism and animal care was so impressive that I have doubts I will ever experience it again in such magnitude."

Jan, Summer 2004

"The opportunities this internship has given me and the knowledge I have gained has been far greater than anything I could have hoped for. I have been able to grow both towards my career goals as well as personally."

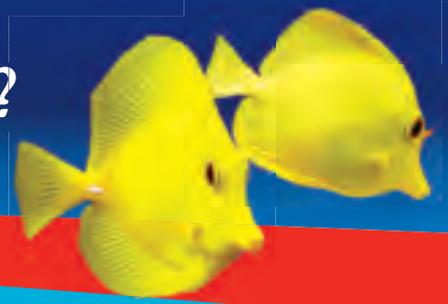
Teagan, Summer 2005

"It's really hard work, but it's such a great opportunity to get up close and personal with a variety of animals."

Eric, Fall 2005



Why not choose a career you'll love?



Find a career at Dolphin Quest

Dolphin Quest is a cool place to work!

Our talented team is made of professional and energetic people who have a passion for animals and the environment. For more information please visit the Careers section on the Dolphin Quest Web site at dolphinquest.com.

Guest Services

Guest Services specialists make certain that our guests receive the highest quality experience possible. They take reservations, assist with check in and communicate with other organizations on the island to ensure positive relationships are maintained within the tourism industry.

Education

Our marine educators maintain valuable working relationships with a variety of peers in the field of marine and environmental education. They are responsible for developing and conducting innovative and engaging programs used to teach people of all ages about the marine environment.

Productions

A crucial part of the Dolphin Quest experience is capturing a guest's memory of their encounter. The photographer is a key part of the customer service process and must have good people skills. Photographers are responsible for taking pictures, loading and editing pictures on the computer, along with printing and distributing them to guests. Other duties include using video cameras to film and produce videos of guests' encounters for retail sale.

Training

Dolphin trainers work directly with the animals to ensure their health and well-being by providing a stimulating environment. Training involves a background in biology and psychology, and requires good people and public speaking skills.



**Best of luck
with whatever
career you choose.**



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Dolphin Quest is a proud member of the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums, dedicated to conservation through public display, education and research.

 Printed on recycled paper. Dolphin Quest encourages everyone to reduce, reuse and recycle.