



*Before animals go to a zoo, they often spend some time in an animal shelter. Caretakers make sure the animals are safe and well fed before they head to their new home.*

All sorts of animals live at the zoo, from frogs and turtles to leopards and chimpanzees. Zookeepers take very good care of them. They're given the right food and a place to live that's clean and has plenty of space for them to roam. The zoo imitates nature as best as it can so that each animal feels safe and happy.



"I take care of the giraffes and the lions and tigers too."



"I take care of the elephants."

"I take care of the monkeys and the porcupines."

"I take care of the tortoises and the frogs."

There are lots of different animals living at the zoo: big and small, heavy and light. They all need to stay healthy and fit, and they need to feel happy too. The zookeeper and their animals know each other well, just like you and your pet do. (This may be more difficult in the case of a tarantula or a poison dart frog . . .) Zookeepers also have to be good problem-solvers, because anything can happen. You never know what animals are going to do!

I'm a zookeeper and . . .

. . . I'm strong, so I can restrain or stop an animal. I don't mind doing dirty jobs, like picking up poop.



. . . I'm not afraid of animals, not even the ones that can be dangerous. The zoo makes sure I can work safely.

. . . I'm patient and calm. Animals have a mind of their own, so I try to always keep my cool.

. . . I know a lot about the species I care for: how the animal behaves, what it needs, where it lives in nature . . .