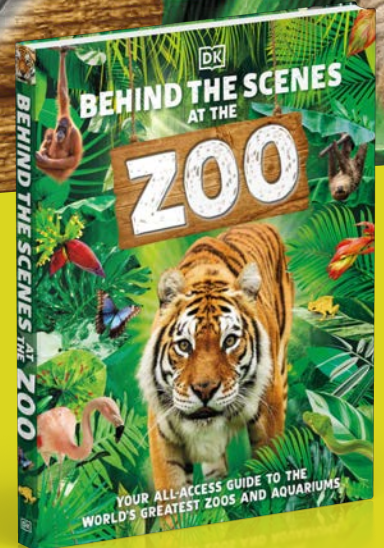




BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE

ZOO





ROLES BEHIND THE SCENES

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Designing zoos is the job of a landscape architect. Some zoos bring in outside experts, while others, such as the Smithsonian's National Zoo in the US, have their own in-house landscape architect. Architects first have to understand the needs of animals, visitors, and keepers. Then they are able to create stunning but practical enclosures that also give animals a safe and stimulating space to live and play.



Teamwork

Architects at the zoo design everything from enclosures to food stalls and walkways. They work with colleagues from all over the zoo to devise the perfect plans.



Using technology

Many ideas start as sketches on paper, but to create the real deal, landscape architects use design software. These complex computer programmes ensure every plan is perfectly precise so that the build goes off without a hitch.

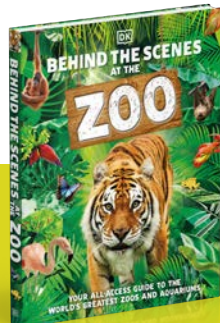
From concept to creation ▲

This in-house landscape architect at the Smithsonian's National Zoo has had the chance to see her paper plans transformed into a real-life enclosure.



For the curious

Content taken from *Behind the Scenes at the Zoo*





ROLES BEHIND THE SCENES

ZOOKEEPER

Zookeepers work with – and get to know – some of the most interesting and exciting animals on the planet. They do much more than clean enclosures and feed animals – they have to be experts in all aspects of an animal's welfare. Zookeepers keep a close eye on an animal's physical and mental health, and use their specialist knowledge to learn about each animal's personality. Some keepers will care for an animal throughout its entire life.



Someone familiar

For many zoo animals, keepers are a familiar and reassuring part of their life. At the Singapore Night Safari, a keeper helps a young Malayan tapir to settle after it's moved to a new enclosure.



This educator explains to visitors why the lions are being trained.

Two keepers are training an adult female lion and her litter. Training helps the keepers monitor the lions' health.

▲ Spot the difference

This family of scarlet macaws at Paradise Park in the UK may all look the same to you, but the keeper knows each one by sight.

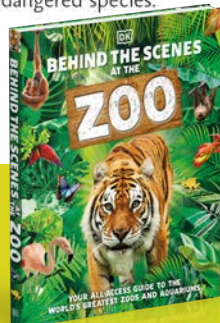
Keeper talks

At Columbus Zoo and Aquarium in the US, visitors learn about animals during one of the zoo's many keeper talks. These talks are a chance for zoo professionals to speak about their passion for animals, and a great way for them to explain to visitors their zoo's mission: the conservation of endangered species.



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ROLES BEHIND THE SCENES

AQUARIST

Aquarists look after aquariums and the animals that live in them. They perform many different roles, such as cleaning tanks and checking the water quality – because fish live, eat, and poo in the same water, it's very important that the water is filtered and kept clean. Different fish favour different conditions, so aquarists need to know the biology of every animal, and if they are working in large tanks, they might need to be able to dive.



Regular check-ups

Aquarists, like this one at Sea Life Manchester in the UK, monitor their fish for signs of illness or injury. They need a special pen and board to be able to take notes under water.



Showcasing species

Aquarists often give presentations to the public, with the help of divers in the tank. They point out the different types of fish, and explain their behaviour and how they are cared for. At the Blue Planet Aquarium Aquatheatre in the UK, visitors can learn about the aquarium's Caribbean-focused exhibits, which house more than 1,500 fish.

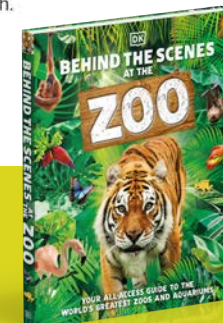
Dressing for work ▲

At Sea Life Kelly Tarlton's in New Zealand, the aquarist dresses in protective gear before feeding the sharks. She checks the diving equipment, and then puts on a helmet, as well as long chainmail gloves to protect her hands.



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ROLES BEHIND THE SCENES

ZOO VET

Zoo vets look after the health of animals in zoos – they need to be expert in the biology of all the species that live there. Vets treat and prevent diseases, operating on animals when necessary. Their day may involve anything from adjusting an animal's diet plan to helping injured wildlife brought to the zoo to recover. Zoo vets often get involved in conservation programmes in the wild, using their skills to help sick animals in need of treatment.



Regular health checks

Vets aim to detect disease early. At Jurong Bird Park in Singapore, listening to a penguin's lungs regularly can help spot signs of Aspergillosis, an infection that is difficult to treat when advanced.

Sterile dressings protect wounds and keep them clean.

Darts can give a sedative to distant or untrained animals.

On the mend ▲
A zoo vet at the Clearwater Aquarium in Florida in the US treats a green sea turtle that has been hit by a boat. Boat collisions pose a major risk to sea turtles.



The compartments in the box help vets to find what they need quickly.

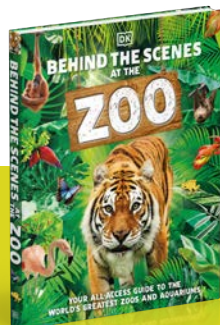
Vet kit box

A vet's kit box contains "controlled drugs", such as the powerful medicines that are used to sedate animals. Strict laws mean that only vets (and those they think are responsible) can possess these drugs, so it's vital that the box can be locked safely.



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ROLES BEHIND THE SCENES

WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

Wildlife biologists study how animals live and survive. A lot of this work used to be carried out "in the field" – in the animals' natural habitat. But nowadays, some wildlife biologists spend just as much time in zoos and laboratories, researching things such as animal genetics, reproduction, and nutrition. Wildlife biologists use this research to reduce the threats to animals, and to set up conservation programmes to protect endangered populations both in the wild and in zoos.



Lab work

These biologists from Edinburgh Zoo in the UK are studying an antelope's poo to find out information that could be vital to safeguarding the species.



Biologists set up a camera trap (a camera triggered by movement).

Gaining experience ▲

Becoming a wildlife biologist requires commitment and hard work. Getting field experience like this trainee at Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique also helps.

In the field

Many wildlife biologists don't always see the species they are working to save because the animals are rare, timid, or dangerous. Instead, they follow them using monitoring equipment, such as these camera traps set up by the UK's Chester Zoo in Gashaka-Gumti National Park in Nigeria.



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