

Information collected by



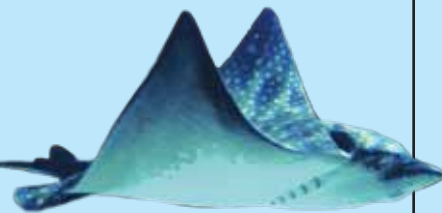








If you are interested in working with marine animals, here are a few things you should know before getting started.

- 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).

Copyright Dolphin Quest 2012, all rights reserved



Job Title	Requirements & Qualifications	General Duties & Responsibilities	Potential Employers	Salary
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 	<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 	\$15,000 - \$60,000
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 	<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 	\$18,000 - \$60,000
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 	<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 	\$20,000 - \$60,000
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 	<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 	\$18,000 - \$60,000
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 	<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 	\$20,000 - \$70,000
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) 	<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 	\$20,000 - \$65,000
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 	<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 	\$16,000 - \$45,000
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 	<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 	\$18,000 - \$55,000
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 	<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 	\$55,000 - \$130,000

