

Union Public Schools Extended Day Program Virtual Summer Camp 2020

Class: Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

Theme: Zookeepers Week

WEEK OF: July 13-17, 2020

Objective: Students will learn through book extension activities, based on the books “Giraffe’s Can’t Dance”, “Snow Leopard, Ghost of the Mountain”, “Stand Back Said the Elephant, I’m Going to Sneeze!”, “Be Brave Little Tiger!”, and “The Sea Lion’s Friend”

	Social/Group	Literacy/Language	Math	Science	Creative	Gross/Fine motor	Outdoor
Monday	“Giraffes Can’t Dance” https://youtu.be/hf3OHNUiG4k	What does a Zookeeper do? They provide care for the animals and their habits or the environment where they live. We will talk more about zookeepers do on our virtual field trip in the science section.	The Giraffe is the tallest animal. How tall are you? Use blocks, crayons, toy cars, paper towel rolls, etc. to measure your height. Lay whatever you choose on the floor end to end to use a measuring tool. How many blocks tall are you?	See the zookeeper notes below and watch link below for a field trip to the Tulsa zoo to learn about Giraffes and zookeepers.	Make a Giraffe using your arm and hand. See the instructions Below, they are in the zookeeper’s chat about Giraffes.	Animal Yoga with Zoo educator Patrick! https://youtu.be/D6MNrtgzIAE	Animal Yoga with Zoo educator Patrick! https://youtu.be/D6MNrtgzIAE
Tuesday	“Snow Leopard, Ghost of the Mountains” https://youtu.be/HuTCUMiyTSY	If you were a zookeeper for the Snow Leopards what do you think you would do?	In the book “Snow Leopard, Ghost of the Mountains”, the snow leopard leapt 30 feet in one leap. How far can you leap?	Field trip to the Tulsa zoo to learn about Snow Leopards See the zookeeper notes below	Use playdough to make your snow leopard.	Shaping playdough How far can you leap like a Snow Leopard?	Leaping like a Snow Leopard
Wednesday	“Stand Back” Said the Elephant, “I’m Going to Sneeze!” https://youtu.be/m1z56LrA6ac “A Home for Elephants” https://www.uniteforliteracy.com/aza/safe/book?BookId=1298	What do you think the word endangered mean? Asian Elephants in the wild live in an endangered habitat. This means that the places where the elephants live in the wild are becoming smaller and uninhabitable.	Pump Up the Pattern https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hoFhVdYsmPg	Field trip to the Tulsa zoo to learn about Elephants. See the zookeeper notes below	Paper Elephant See materials and directions on the Elephant information page	Cutting and gluing Pump Up the Pattern	Find a shade tree, have a picnic, and read your favorite zoo book.
Thursday	“Be Brave Little Tiger!” https://youtu.be/_J530lh4j40 Malayan Tigers are found on the Malaya Peninsula and the southern tip of Thailand.	Retell and act out the story using your tiger you created in art.	The One More Number Game https://youtu.be/Ap3XeB6Bhls	Field trip the Tulsa zoo to learn about the Malayan Tiger. See the zookeeper notes below	Use materials you have at home to create a tiger of your own, use it to help you retell and act out the story.	Manipulating art materials Race your sibling in the yard Races	Races
Friday	“The Sea Lions Friend” https://youtu.be/WhiPCLcnYBY	An Author is the person who writes the book. An Illustrator is someone who draws the pictures.	Cut out and put the zoo animal pictures below in order from largest to smallest.	Field trip to the Tulsa zoo to learn about Sea Lions. See the zookeeper notes below	Use crayons or markers to draw your version of a sea lion.	5 Zoo Animals Yoga Poses for Kids https://youtu.be/awrpqz2eHHI Drawing with crayons and markers	5 Zoo Animals Yoga Poses for Kids https://youtu.be/awrpqz2eHHI
Creative Skills	Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Health, Safety, PE	Social Studies	Social and Personal	
ELG: 1:A,1:C,1:D OAS:	ELG: 4:A, 8:B, OAS: PK. 3.R.1 K.3.R.1	ELG: 4:A, 4:B OAS: PK.A.1.2 K.N.1.7	ELG: 3:A, OAS: K-ESS3-1	ELG: 1:F, OAS: PK.S1.E7 K.S1.E7	ELG: 4:A OAS:	ELG: 1:F OAS:	

Thank you to the Tulsa Zoo for helping us learn about Zookeepers and some of the animals they take care of on daily basis. On the next page, are the questions we asked the Tulsa Zookeepers and their answers. This link will take you to the full zoo field trip. <https://youtu.be/hlo6tcNSGbY>

ELG: Early Learning Guidelines

OAS: Oklahoma Academic Standards

Tulsa Zookeeper Questions Answered by The Tulsa Zoo

General Zookeeper questions answered by Lisa Marcic, Lexie Buchanan, and Jorel Martin

Lisa Marcic

1. What does a zookeeper do?

A zookeeper provides care for the animals living at the zoo by preparing and feeding diets, cleaning both the animals' living spaces as well as service areas, providing training and enrichment for the animals, and keeping detailed records of their care. We share our knowledge of the animals in our care with our guests that visit the zoo so they can learn all about them. We also help the animals' wild counter parts through breeding programs, research, and contributing to conservation efforts.

2. What is the most enjoyable thing about being a zookeeper?

I really enjoy getting to know the animals I work with and building a strong bond with them. I feel like I know my animals better than myself sometimes! My favorite way to spend time with my animals and to build that bond is by training them. It is very rewarding when they learn something new and they seem to enjoy it too.

3. What is the least enjoyable thing about being a zookeeper?

The animals need to be cared for 24/7. This means that my coworkers and I must care for them on weekends, holidays and come in on our days off if they need us. It can be tough to miss out on spending these times with my family and friends but luckily the zoo has become a second family for me.

4. Why did you decide to become a zookeeper?

For some reason I have just always loved animals. I am not sure why since I did not have any pets until I got a dog at age 14. My very first job was caring for dogs at a boarding facility and absolutely loved it. I continued to take on jobs and internships in various animal care fields. Working with marine mammals was my favorite because I love the challenge of training such intelligent animals. That is how I ended up being a zookeeper, primarily working with sea lions.

5. What are the important skills you need to be a zookeeper?

Even though it is not really a skill, having passion is very important. Being a zookeeper is hard work, so you must be willing to do that hard work, but having passion for the animals you care for makes doing all that labor much easier. It is also important to have attention for detail, patience, and the ability to communicate well with fellow team members and zoo guests.

6. What kind of schooling or training did you do before you became a zookeeper?

Like many zookeepers I obtained a bachelor's degree. Mine is in zoology. Also like many others I gained hands-on experience through internships, volunteer work, and seasonal and part-time jobs. Specifically, for my job working with marine mammals, I also needed to be a strong swimmer and have SCUBA certification.

Lexie Buchanan

1. What does a zookeeper do?

Zookeepers are responsible for all aspects of care related to the animals in their charge. We feed, clean, enrich, train, and observe our animals... just to name a few duties. We are also responsible for voicing any welfare or medical concerns as well as educating visitors about their wild counterparts.

2. What is the most enjoyable thing about being a zookeeper?

Being able to spend time with each animal and knowing them on an individual basis. Seeing how they interact to new things (enrichment, habitat changes, conspecifics) and situations. I also enjoy the challenges they present us every day whether that be coming up with a way to teach them new behavior or creating a fun new back scratcher for them.

3. What is least enjoyable thing about being a zookeeper?

Honestly, nothing sticks out to me as “least” enjoyable. Sometimes I get into poison ivy cutting browse and I do not enjoy that all that much. ☹️

4. Why did you decide to become a zookeeper?

Originally, I wanted to be a vet. But when I was in university, I started to realize that being a vet was not exactly what I pictured it to be. I wanted more time with the animals then just the limited treatment time. Zookeeping gives me much more time with the animals daily. I wanted to make a difference in the world and for me that is helping take care of some of the rarest animals in the world.

5. What are the important skills you need to be a zookeeper?

You must be a hard worker. We are on our feet all day in all weather conditions. You must want to continue learning and adapting every day. Problem solving skills will always come in handy as well. One thing most people do not think about a zookeeper needing is people skills. Yes, we work with animals, but we also have many coworkers and interact with members of the public daily so being able to communicate well is essential. We are a big team and we work together to achieve goals.

6. What kind of schooling or training did you do before you became a zookeeper?

I have a bachelor's degree in biomedical biology from Wichita State University. As we move into the future, more and more zookeeping jobs require you to have a degree in a related field like Biology, Ecology, or Zoology. Although I know keepers with all kinds of different degrees, even one in Mathematics.

I also completed two separate internships. My first after I graduated at Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha with the Hoofstock and Dome Mammal department. Then the following year I completed my second internship at the Kansas City Zoo in their Savanna department. Internships are required in this field but how long someone stays in the internship phase just depends on their ability and luck. Internships help teach you how to be a zookeeper and how to network in an industry where everyone knows everyone. Internships are also a good time for discovering yourself as a keeper and learning what species you may want to work with in the future or what area of keeping you want to focus on most like training or creating enrichment. I can't wait to mentor our future Tulsa Zoo interns.

Jorel Martin

1. What does a zookeeper do?

A zookeeper care for animals with their assigned area. They do this by cleaning, feeding, training, and administering any medications that they may need. We also educate anyone who we come in contact with about not only the animals that we work with directly, but also their wild counterparts and their environments. We bring out their natural behaviors by enriching them with things that they enjoy or are curious about, so they stay active both physically and mentally.

2. What is the most enjoyable thing about being a zookeeper?

My most enjoyable moments are seeing an animal that I work with complete a behavior that we have been working on together for some time. They often get so much out of the experience it is just a joy to watch them develop and learn.

3. What is least enjoyable thing about being a zookeeper?

Being a zookeeper is very physically taxing. Some aspects of the job are more physically taxing than others, but we are here rain or shine, hot or cold, holidays, weekends, etc. You have to remember to care for yourself so you can physically continue to care for the animals in your area.

4. Why did you decide to become a zookeeper?

I decided at a young age to work with animals in some fashion, but it was not until high school when I started to really learn how much good I could do for wildlife by being a keeper. Through volunteer opportunities and specific courses throughout my schooling I decided that it was my calling.

5. What are the important skills you need to be a zookeeper?

You need to be self-motivated, communicative, hardworking, and good teammate.

6. What kind of schooling or training did you do before you became a zookeeper?

After high school I obtained my bachelor's degree in Environmental Conservation Biology. This was a great foundation. While I was getting my bachelor's degree I also volunteered as a docent here at the Tulsa Zoo. Once my degree was obtained, I did an internship in what is now the Wild-Life Trek department. After time in the Wild-Life Trek area I worked as a contact yard keeper, part time, before becoming a full time keeper in the hoofstock area.

Zoo Animal questions begin on the next page.

Giraffes

Giraffe questions answered by Keeper Jorel Martin- Hoofstock Keeper

1. What do you do for the Giraffes?

Our daily tasks include cleaning all their yards and barns, feeding them balanced diets, and working towards a variety of training goals. We provide them enrichment devices such as hanging boomer balls, so they have to forage, using their tongues through the holes to obtain food. We also cut large branches from trees that they enjoy for an opportunity to browse. They wrap their tongues around the leaves, pulling it to eat. They even like to strip the bark and eat that as well. When needed we medicate the giraffes in a variety of ways under the direction of the veterinary staff.

2. What can you tell us about the Giraffes?

Giraffes are so cool. They are the tallest land animal in the world. They also have the shortest sleep cycle of any mammal sleeping only 30 min a day. Can you imagine if we could function on only 30 minutes of sleep how much more we could do?

3. How do the Giraffes stay cool in the summer?

Giraffes stay cool by having long legs, necks, and ears. This allows their bodies to dissipate heat much easier since they have increased their surface area. Giraffes will also seek out shade under trees or to stay cool in the hottest parts of the day. They also drink water regularly. They also get some of their water from the leaves that they eat.

4. What is the most amazing you have learned from the Giraffes?

Our ambassadors (giraffes) have taught me that they are all very much individuals with their own preferences, reactions, and feelings. We have to treat each giraffe completely different from each other. Where one giraffe may like one food another may not. Some of our giraffe are very adventurous and like to explore new experiences, some of them are afraid of anything new preferring to stay where they are most comfortable. It's our job to read each one's behavior so we can provide the animal with the best environment and choices every day.

Giraffe Art

Supplies:

Paper that you can fit your arm and hand on
scissors

Yellow, orange, or brown paint (crayons or markers can also be used)

Brown marker (you can also use a pen)

Googly eyes (you can draw the eyes if you do not have googly eyes)

Directions:

Lay your arm and hand on the paper and trace it using the marker or a pen; Do Not trace your thumb.

Use the scissors to cut out your tracing.

Paint or color the cut out.



Add the spots

Once the paint is dry, you can then draw on the nose and mouth. You can also draw the eyes or googly eyes now.

There are 2 examples provided. **If students want to use other colors for their Giraffe, they may.**

Snow Leopards

Snow Leopard questions answered by Meredith McDonnell

1. What do you do for the Snow Leopards?

As keeper for the snow leopards I am charged with their daily care. Each day we provide a nutritionally balanced meal, fresh water, training, and enrichment. We are also responsible for maintaining the snow leopard habitat here at the zoo.

2. What can you tell us about the Snow Leopards?

Snow leopards are incredible climbers. Their tail is almost as long as their entire body. This provides balance to the snow leopards while scaling mountain sides. They also use their tail to wrap around themselves to provide protection from the cold.

3. How do the Snow Leopards stay cool in the summer?

They do quite well in the warm temperatures of Oklahoma. They will shed some of their fur each summer to help keep them cooler. Also, at the zoo our snow leopards are always provided access to an air-conditioned indoor habitat if they need to cool off.

4. What is the most amazing you have learned from the Snow Leopards?

I love their quirky personalities! I also love their beautiful fur coats and long tails. Their features are very unique, and the impressiveness of that never wears off.

Elephants

Elephant questions answered by Keeper Lexie Buchanan

1. Can you tell us what you do for the Elephants?

Everything! Our main jobs as keepers are to make sure the animals in our care are safe, healthy, and happy. Every day each elephant gets a visual look over by the keepers, usually during their daily bath. We perform any necessary medical training or treatment for the day. All the way from giving them supplements to trimming their toenails. I prepare their diets for the day by chopping produce or restocking hay needed. Their diet gets incorporated into enrichment items seen throughout their areas like barrels and puzzle feeders. These items encourage them to forage for their food and keep their minds active throughout the day. Elephant keepers also go out daily to cut tree limbs (browse) for the elephants to eat. We also utilize their daily diet when doing a training session. We keep the elephants fit with our daily exercise sessions, asking for behaviors that promote cardio and flexibility.

Of course, I almost forgot the most known part of zookeeping, cleaning. We are responsible for cleaning each area the elephants utilized both inside and outside

every day. It is a lot of hard work, but it is very rewarding to see a spotless habitat or stall when you are done.

I also do have some technological duties like keeping records for both of our elephants so that we can more easily monitor their health and behavior overtime. We also write training plans for each behavior we train, and requests for any new enrichment items. Habitat maintenance, safety protocols/procedures, and more... we wear a lot of “hats” to care for the largest animal at the zoo.

2. What can you tell us about the Elephants?

I could list off facts like a textbook here I suppose, but I think the thing I wish more people knew about elephants is that they are endangered and without our help they may be extinct in our lifetime. I’m sure most people know that they are in trouble, but they may not grasp the true crisis they are in. Most people think of ivory poaching when they think of elephants being endangered. Currently for the Asian Elephant, the species we have at the Tulsa Zoo, their biggest threat is habitat loss. They are only able to live in a fraction of their former range. One way you can help is by supporting organizations like The International Elephant Foundation (IEF) who help protect elephant habitat as well as come up with and support solutions to save elephants from the brink. The Tulsa Zoo supports the IEF and its mission. By attending the zoo, you are helping the zoo help elephants in their native lands.

3. What is your favorite part of working with the Elephants?

Even after I became a zookeeper full time, working elephants always seemed like this far off dream. My niche as a zookeeper lies in the realm of hoofstock and pachyderms. There is something about working with large herbivores that has always appealed to me much more than other species. Working elephants is everything I thought it would be and more. I love the challenge they give me both mentally and physically.

Paper Plate Elephant

Supplies Needed:

- Paper plate
- Scissors
- Glue
- White paper
- Black sharpie
- Paint/sponge or crayons or markers

Procedures:

- Start by cutting the design to the right. Sponge paint it or color it and let it dry.
- Cut out two eyes and glue them on. Use the extra piece of paper plate that you cut off and cut it skinnier. Glue it on to make the elephant’s trunk!



Malayan Tigers

Malayan Tiger questions answered by Anna Stumpf

1. What do you do for the Malayan Tiger?

As a mammal relief keeper, I help take care of our three Malayan tigers' daily needs. This includes cleaning and maintaining their exhibits and holding areas, feeding them and making sure they have fresh water every day. We also provide them with daily enrichment to stimulate them both physically and mentally. Keepers also closely monitor many aspects of our tigers' health, such as their appetite and behavior, and we notify vet staff if we have any concerns. Keepers are also involved in the behavioral training of the tigers. Our tigers are trained to voluntarily perform natural behaviors that help reduce the stress of veterinary procedures, and training also helps strengthen keeper/animal bonds. Keeper chats and talking to/educating the public is another important part of our job. We act as the voices for our animals and bring awareness to the importance of these tigers.

2. What can you tell us about the tiger?

Malayan tigers are found on the Malay Peninsula and the southern tip of Thailand and is the national animal of Malaysia. It is one of the smallest subspecies of tiger, with males typically weighing around 260 pounds, and females weighing on around 220 pounds. They are nocturnal ambush hunters, and will prey on multiple boar and deer species, and sometimes even juvenile bears, elephants, and rhinoceros. They will hunt every three to four days, consuming as much meat as they can in one meal. They are solitary animals and can live to be 15-20 years of age. The Malayan tiger is critically endangered, with as few as 250 individuals remaining in the wild. Humans are their biggest threat; poaching and deforestation are the two biggest reasons for their dwindling numbers.

3. What is the most fascinating thing about the Malayan Tiger?

There are so many things; I couldn't pick just one!

The Malayan tiger was originally classified as the Indochinese tiger, until DNA testing in 2004 determined that it was its own, new subspecies.

A tiger's stripes also appear on its skin. Tigers are excellent swimmers and climbers. Tiger whiskers act as pulse detectors. They bite the neck of their prey, and then they move their whiskers forward to determine if the prey still has a pulse. The white spots on the back of tiger ears that are sometimes called eye spots or predatory spots. They act as "eyes" to fool both prey and other predators by making them think the tiger is looking at them.

Sea Lions

Hello class!

My name is Halle and I am one of three sea lion keepers at the Tulsa Zoo. Our job as keepers is to take the best care of the California sea lions (and their habitat) everyday! We prepare their diets every morning by sorting through about 30+ pounds of fish and pick out the best ones to feed to the sea lions. Both of our sea lions are currently eating about 13 pounds of fish each day, so we divide that up into 4 buckets for each of them. We primarily use the fish in the training sessions, as well as hide it in some of their toys that they like to play with. Keepers also have to clean many (fishy) dishes, and all the back areas where we either prep the fish or where the sea lions spend their time inside. It is also important to take care of the habitat that they live in, so we take water samples of their pool a few times throughout the day to make sure it is just right for them.

With the four training sessions that we do with our sea lions, we give them fish throughout them and that helps to build a positive relationship between us. They learn to trust us so that we can train them to not only do the fun behaviors they do in shows, but also participate in their own healthcare. Our sea lions have learned how to allow the vets to check them over once a week, walk onto a scale to get a weight on them 2x a week, take their daily vitamins, open their mouths nice and wide so we can look at their teeth and gums, and even brush their teeth! Training is a great way to get them up and moving to get some exercise as well as provide some mental stimulation. Sea lions are great students because they are very curious, active, and intelligent! They seem to enjoy learning new behaviors and will continue to do so for the rest of their lives.

Our two sea lions were both rescued off the Southern coast of California due to some injuries/ illness they experienced when they were very young. Cisco is our oldest at 10 years old, who was bitten by a shark when he was about 2 years old. He was bitten on the hip which affected his mobility.

Reyes is just about a year younger than Cisco and was found with an infection in both of his eyes. By the time the rehabilitation center found him, it was better to remove his left eye since it was too severely damaged. The Marine Mammal Care Center in southern California took great care of them however they were both deemed non-releasable (meaning that they would have a slim chance of surviving in the wild) due to their injuries. So, they found a great home with us here in Tulsa, where we can continue to provide great care for the rest of their lives.

California sea lions live along the West coast of the United States. As far North as British Columbia, Canada and as far South as Baja, Mexico. They have torpedo shaped bodies and are well adapted for life in the water as well as on land! Sea lions only eat fish so they hunt in the ocean for just about anything they can catch. They also seem to enjoy taking naps on beaches, piers, buoys, or anything floating in the water.

A couple of the sea lion's favorite "treats" are when we make ice treats for them or hide fish in some of their toys. (Basically, anything that has food in it. Haha!) We like to make ice treats on special occasions (like their birthdays or holidays), or when it is really hot outside. We just use water with some food coloring in it and pour that into many of the different shaped molds we have, add some fish, and freeze it for them to enjoy once it is frozen. The sea lions also have many toys with holes drilled into them so we can stuff some fish inside it. The toy is tossed to them in the water and they get to push it around to get the fish out.

My favorite thing about the sea lions is that they are very curious and smart animals. You also get to see their individual personalities shine through when working closely with them during training sessions. It is awesome to build a trusting relationship with them and to be able to teach guests all about sea lions. I am thankful for Cisco and Reyes being at the Tulsa Zoo where guests can also enjoy them even though we are far from the California coastline!

I have attached a few pictures of the fish they eat (capelin is the smaller fish and herring is the bigger fish), some of their toys they play with and also one of both Cisco and Reyes with one of their ice treats we made recently for World Sea Lion Day!



Siamang

1. What does a zookeeper do?

Every day we provide clean habitats, food, medication, and enrichment for the animals in our care. We also spend a great deal of our day watching and observing the animals for a variety of behaviors from estrus, breeding, play, to them not behaving normally, which could indicate illness or injuries. Almost all Zookeepers are great at record keeping. We record animal behaviors for monitoring and for those subtle changes that we need to notify vet staff of. Enrichment logs help us to not duplicate activities or toys to help keep the animals stimulated and toys novel and fun. We also take the time to talk and answer questions to the guests of the zoo. We love telling stories about the animals in our care.

2. What is the most enjoyable thing about being a zookeeper?

My favorite part is taking some time to just hang out with an animal or group of individuals and watch them. It is always so rewarding to see them do natural behaviors, like Meerkats digging tunnels while one is their sentry or young Diana monkeys playing together and then sitting with their mom for a nice grooming session, building their bong.

3. What is least enjoyable thing about being a zookeeper?

Bad weather! We work outside for the most part, and sometimes the weather can be so unpredictable. Too cold and certain animals must stay inside in heated areas, but those tend to be smaller spaces. Sometimes, ice or snow could cause a power outage and then it's a scramble to get generators running to keep holding spaces warm. It's never fun working outside in the heat of summer, so drinking plenty of water is a must and coming up with ways to help keep the animals cool too can be a challenge. Rain is also not fun to work in, but I'll pick rain over ice storm and no power.

4. Why did you decide to become a zookeeper?

I have always loved biology, psychology, and animals. I was just lucky enough to figure out in collage that I wanted to work with animals. Zookeeping was a great option as it combined my favorite studies and animals. Plus, how many people can say they work with endangered species and help conserve their relatives in the wild as well.

5. What are the important skills you need to be a zookeeper?

A good understanding of operant conditioning (positive reinforcement training), being good at record keeping, making great observations and being detailed oriented, and of course willing to get down and dirty for the job.

6. What kind of schooling or training did you do before becoming a zookeeper?

I was lucky enough to intern at the Tulsa Zoo while I was going to college for my bachelors in organismic biology. This allowed me to get a lot of hands of training with keepers while I was still in school. That also helped me to focus my studies on classes that would help me become a better keeper, like psychology courses to strengthen my understanding of behavior. Of course, Mammalogy and Zoology were some of my best courses to give me a great foundation of animal biology.

7. What can you tell us about the Siamang?

Siamangs are a type of gibbon which is a lesser ape, not a monkey. Siamangs are monogamous and sing duets to strengthen their bonds. The males and females actually have different chords that each sing making a unique to that pair song. Siamangs have a modified throat sac that helps them make their calls louder. They also travel by brachiation, meaning they swing through trees hand over hand, think of how kids climb across “monkey bars”. (Fun fact, most monkeys can’t swing through brachiation, so monkey bars should be called gibbon bars!).

8. How do you care for them?

At the Tulsa Zoo, we make sure our siamangs gets multiple feedings a day, with a minimum of 2. Every day they receive some type of enrichment. That could be from changing their ropes and branches around to give them new paths to move around or hiding a portion of their diet in toy (like a rubber kong toy) that they have to use their dexterous fingers to figure out how to get the food out. We also make sure their exhibit is cleaned. We do not share space with our Siamangs, so they have to move to a holding space while we clean their exhibit. This is where that positive reinforcement comes into play. All our Siamangs know their names and will move to their holding space when called and are rewarded with some type of food reinforcer. While in the holding space, this is the best time for us to get observations on them and make sure they are in good health. Once we finish cleaning, we will put out breakfast and some enrichment, then call them to their exhibit space. This then allows us to clean those holding spaces. Of course, we will do voluntary training with our Siamangs where they get to choose if they want to participate, which they tend to do as training is engaging for them. At the end of the workday, right before the zoo closes, a Keeper will give them their dinner and access to their holding spaces so they have lots of options on where they want to be for the evening. As long as they are healthy, this is a typical day, if they are sick or injured then the care is likely different.

9. What is their favorite treat?

Sweet produce like figs, apples, and bananas are always a favorite.



