

# Woof! Meow! Chirp! Roar!

by Keith Richardson



1 Do you have pets? Do you feel a special connection to them? Are you intrigued by all kinds of animals? If so, maybe you will want to work with animals when you grow up. There are many careers that involve working with animals. Maybe one of them is right for you.

2 Maybe you would enjoy keeping animals well or healing animals that are sick. Then you would be a veterinarian. A veterinarian has many choices for the kinds of animals he or she wants to work with. Veterinarians can treat domestic animals, exotic animals, or wild animals from other countries.



Some veterinarians work only with large animals, such as cows, horses, or elephants. Some work with small animals such as dogs and cats. Some specialize in only one kind of animal, such as mice or reptiles. Veterinarians are also choosing to specialize in a certain part of helping animals, such as dentistry. Imagine fixing a cavity in a tiger's mouth! All veterinarians must go to college to learn how to care for animals.

3 If you think exotic animals are right for you, then you might want to be a zookeeper. You would have to know a lot about where the animals come from so you could build a good environment for them. You would also need to learn what is best for the animals to eat. Of course you would have to be very careful. Wild animals are strong and dangerous. Even when they seem friendly, you must remember that they are wild. Wild animals can be very unpredictable.

4 Another job involving animals is animal trainer. There are many different kinds of training jobs. A trainer may work with any kind of animal. Dogs, bears, dolphins, pigs, and horses have all been main characters on television shows in the past. If you watch closely, you will see animals used in television shows and commercials, movies, and advertisements. Someone must train these animals to do these tasks.

5 Some trainers teach dogs, miniature horses, or pot-bellied pigs to be helper animals. They perform jobs that their owners cannot. These jobs might include picking up things that have fallen, turning on lights, or opening doors. Some dogs have been trained to help people who are visually impaired perform everyday tasks.

6 Some animal trainers care for, train, and show dogs in dog shows. These people get to know a dog very well. The dogs often know and respond to the trainer better than they do to their owners. This is because the dogs spend so much time with the trainer.

7 Some trainers work with marine animals, such as killer whales, seals, and dolphins. Sometimes they train the animals to perform in live shows. These animals will perform stunts and interact with the trainer or the audience. Other animals are trained to perform in movies.

8 Sometimes trainers work with animals that have been injured or raised in captivity. They must "teach" these animals how to hunt and survive when they are returned to the wild.

9 Maybe you want a job where you help pet owners keep their dogs, cats, or ferrets looking good and smelling nice. Then you would be a groomer. You could shampoo the pets, trim their fur, brush their teeth, and clip their nails. Groomers also work to get horses, dogs, and cattle ready for shows or fairs. As a pet groomer, you might work at an animal hospital, zoo, pet shop, or circus. In many cases the animals come to the groomer. However, sometimes the groomer goes to the animal. So if you don't want to sit at a desk all day, this could be the job for you.

10 If you like to be outside, you might look into being a wildlife biologist. You would observe animals in the wild to see how they behave and see if they are safe. You would count animals to make sure there are not too many or too few. A wildlife biologist also studies habitats to make sure animals will be safe and healthy there.

11 For all these jobs, you need some sort of special training. However, these are only a few of the jobs you could do if you love animals. If you are really interested in animals, there may be some things you can do now. You might work as a pet-sitter for neighbors, friends who work long hours, or someone on vacation. You might also be able to help out at a local animal shelter. Maybe you could help feed the animals. Maybe you could spend time with the animals. The possibilities are endless!



## COMPREHENSION

**A** Choose the best ending for each sentence.  
Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.

- 1 This story is about
  - a** working as a veterinarian.
  - b** careers with animals.
  - c** careers with pets.
- 2 If you like animals and the water, the job you may enjoy the most is
  - a** becoming an animal dentist.
  - b** training marine animals.
  - c** training animals for movies.
- 3 Wild animals are dangerous because they
  - a** are cuddly and soft.
  - b** make good pets.
  - c** are unpredictable.

- 4 A wildlife biologist is someone who
  - a** grooms dogs at dog shows.
  - b** trains dolphins and killer whales.
  - c** studies animals in the wild.
- 5 If you like animals, something you can do today is
  - a** pet-sit for a friend.
  - b** volunteer at an animal shelter.
  - c** Both **a** and **b**

## LEARN ABOUT WORDS

**B** Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 tame; not wild (2)
- 2 foreign; strange; unusual (2)
- 3 smaller version of something (5)
- 4 of the sea (7)
- 5 seen while it is actually happening (7)
- 6 person who takes care of an animal's appearance (9)
- 7 environments in which animals live (10)

**C** A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning will depend on how it is used.

The *fly* buzzed around the room.  
The bird will *fly* to its nest.

Look at each word in **bold type** below. Note the paragraph number. Look back at the paragraph. Which meaning does the word have there? Write *a* or *b*.

**8 right** (3)

- a** correct
- b** opposite of left

**9 train** (4)

- a** mode of transportation
- b** teach a behavior

**10 well** (6)

- a** to a great extent
- b** hole from which to get water

## THINK ABOUT IT

- D** A pronoun can take the place of many kinds of words.

Read the sentences. Which pronoun in parentheses ( ) makes sense in each sentence? Write the pronoun.

- 1 Lisa fed the seal some fish. (She, They) loved to feed the marine animals.
- 2 Mark fixed the tiger's tooth. (He, They) filled the cavity.
- 3 Ricky and Juan pet-sit for a neighbor. (He, They) walked the dogs after school.
- 4 Cathy wanted to be a wildlife biologist. (They, She) liked to work outdoors.
- 5 Vicky's brother and sister went to the zoo. (She, They) saw the zookeepers clean the elephant's cage.

- E** Writers try to make stories more interesting by using colorful or funny language that doesn't mean exactly what the words say.

The man was *scared to death*.

This sentence means that the man was very scared. It doesn't mean that the man died.

Read the sentences. What does each sentence really mean? Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.

- 6 That leopard is eleven years old and still "a ball of fire" is another way of saying the leopard is
  - a on fire.
  - b full of energy.
  - c playing with a ball.
- 7 The zookeepers were "at the end of their rope" with the gorillas is another way of saying they
  - a had run out of rope.
  - b were tired of dealing with the gorillas.
  - c were tying up the gorillas.
- 8 In a few years the giraffe will be "over the hill" is a funny way of saying the giraffe
  - a will be very old.
  - b can jump over a hill.
  - c will be very big.

- 9 The new wildlife biologist "pulled her weight" is a colorful way of saying she
  - a did a fair share of the work.
  - b dragged weights around the woods.
  - c got her way.

- 10 The animal trainer was "in hot water" when the seal did not perform is a lively way of saying the animal trainer was in
  - a a bathtub.
  - b trouble.
  - c a hot stream.

- F** undone = **un** + done  
redone = **re** + done

The letters *un-* and *re-* are called prefixes. A prefix is added to the beginning of a word. It changes the word's meaning. *Un-* sometimes means "not." The word *undone* means "not done." *Re-* means "again." The word *redone* means "done again."

Read each set of sentences. Choose the word in parentheses ( ) that makes sense. Write the word.

- 11 At first, no one noticed the dirty cage. The dirty cage went (unnoticed, rennoticed).
- 12 The trainer moved the horse from the field into the barn. She (unmoved, removed) the horse from the field.
- 13 Ana did not expect to win the dog show. It was an (unexpected, reexpected) event.
- 14 Bethany was not sure how the rabbits got into the cage. She was (unsure, resure) how they got there.
- 15 The dog walker never wanted to live through such an experience again. He did not want to (unlive, relive) it.