



Zoo Edition Archives - Fall 2010

Career Corner

Excerpts from an interview with Amy Brandt (AB), WPZ Zookeeper

WPZ: What is your job title?

AB: Zookeeper

WPZ: What other animals do you work with besides the grizzly bears?

AB: Lots! Goral, eagles, mountain goat, arctic foxes, otters, lorises, snowy owl, magpie, porcupine, barred owl, snow leopards, wolves, elk.

WPZ: What do the bears eat?

AB: Everything: fruits, veggies, grass, chow, meat, fish, rabbits, cereal, marshmallows, raisins, dog food, lettuce, celery, kale, and the list goes on.

WPZ: What is a typical day like?

AB: 7:00 check all the animals and feed the trout in the bear pool
7:30 feed breakfast to the bears and clean their exhibit
8:30 feed breakfast to the otters and clean their exhibit and holding area
8:45 feed breakfast to mountain goat and foxes; clean their exhibit and holding area
10:00 feed the eagles and clean their exhibit (are you seeing a pattern here!?)
10:30 clean bear holding area
11:00 feed the bears and otters lunch
11:30 prepare food for the afternoon and the next day
12:00 feed the keeper (lunch time)
1:00 feed the goral and clean their exhibit
2:00 projects, daily report, e-mail, meetings
2:30 feed afternoon meal to foxes and mountain goat
3:00 feed the bears, otters, and trout
3:20 check all the animals, pull uneaten food from eagles (so raccoons don't eat it all)
3:30 give bears access to holding
GO HOME!!

WPZ: Do you pet the bears?

AB: No. Sometimes we do touch them through the bars for husbandry purposes like teeth brushing, or drawing blood. But they are not pets, nor are they "tame."

WPZ: Do the bears have personalities? And if so, what are they like?

AB: Most definitely. Keema is the smaller of the two bears, but is definitely the dominant animal. He is more anxious when locked in or separated; however, he is also the easiest to do training with. Denali is more easy going and more adaptable to changes in the routine and changes in his brother. In close-up interactions, they are very dog like.