

Teaching the Teachers: Creating Learning Modules for Presentations at the Willow Park Zoo

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Introduction: The word zoo (short for zoological park or garden) comes from the Greek word zōon (animal) and lógos (study). Zoos have two primary purposes: to provide education about and conservation for animals. In 2008-2009 fiscal year the Willow Park Zoo in Logan, Utah saw around 90,000 visitors that were educated about animals and conservation efforts. One of the multiple educational avenues in which visitors can be taught is through live animal encounters by qualified educators

Problem and Solution: the problem was that the qualified instructs don't have the necessary materials to properly educate these visitors in an entertaining and accurate manner. This issue was solved by creating PowerPoint presentations and fact sheets on four distinct animals in the Willow Park Zoo from research. These animals were the white American pelican, the elk, the grey crowned crane, and the bobcat. This will provide the much needed information to help prepare the educators for the animal encounters and any questions visitors may have.

Fun Facts

Elk

- threaten each other by curling back their upper lip, grinding their teeth and hissing softly
- meat has more protein than chicken or beef
- means moose in early European



American White Pelican

- are kleptoparasites, meaning they steal food from other animals
- are one of the largest flying birds with wingspans up to 10 feet across and can weigh up to 30 pounds

Grey Crowned Crane

- only crane that can nest in trees because of their prehensile back toe that lets them grasp tree limbs
- will fake an injury in order to lure predators away from their nest
- non-migratory but will fly short distances between breeding and non-breeding grounds



Bobcat

- live in social classes: residents, transients, and kittens
- biggest competition are coyotes
- don't have an accurate sense of smell