

Name of Interviewer: Jacqueline Lee

Name of Person Interviewed: Dr. Alex Herman

Name of Company/Business: Oakland Zoo Veterinary Hospital

Description/Nature of Company or Business: Vet Hospital in Oakland Zoo

Interview Questions

1. What is your job title?
 - Vice President of Veterinary Services

2. What are the duties and responsibilities of your job?
 - Conservation
 - Veterinary medicine
 - Help wild animals in need
 - Emergency services
 - Help old animals
 - Preventative care
 - Teamwork, leadership

3. How many hours per day or week do you work? Do you work shifts?
 - 10 -12 hrs a day
 - One day off a week

4. Can you tell me about your background and how you got into this field?
 - Since kid, had pets from father's research
 - Majored in biology and drawing
 - UC Davis vet degree
 - Colorado State

5. What do you like the most about your work?
 - Beautiful animals
 - Community @ zoo
 - Help endangered species
 - Activism

6. What do you like the least about your work?
 - Hard work
 - Busy schedule
 - Unexpected circumstances (losing animals)
 - Lots of hours

7. What education or training is needed for this occupation?
 - Undergrad, pre med/vet
 - Science degrees
 - Vet school, 4 years intern, residency
 - Travel, art
 - 13 years after high school

8. What training have you completed since starting the job?
 - Continuing education credits
 - Wildlife conferences
 - Learn more about specific subjects

9. What personal characteristics are required for someone to be successful in this job?
 - Kindness, humble, ethics

10. Is there a steady demand for workers in this field?
 - Small animal: massive demand
 - Harder to get zoo jobs

11. How much job security is there?
 - Good, employment high

12. What should people do to get started in this career? (i.e. experience, training, education)
 - Work hard in school
 - Different types of vets (determine which one you want to be)
 - Experiences w/ vets (volunteer, intern, shadow)

13. How might this job change in the future?
 - Dogs & cats, online vet
 - Cheaper medicine
 - Doctor & patient relationship the same

14. What other jobs could you do with the skills/education you have gained in this field?
 - Small animal work
 - Farm practice
 - Medical writing
 - Basic science

15. How are new employees hired for this position?
 - Pass state & national boards

- Find ads where they're hiring

16. What was the hardest procedure that you had to do on an animal?

- Bird cancer, 4 surgeries
- Consistent cases are the most difficult