

# Trainee Keeper at Auckland Zoo

We're *bringing* the  
Zoo to you!



Watch this video to learn about  
the training in this workbook.  
You can print off this pack or use  
it as a digital guide for the tasks.





Learn more  
about this  
task here!

# Have you ever wanted to work at Auckland Zoo as one of our amazing zookeepers?



Read about the Science of Care here


*Reminder:* turn on captions

## Well, here is your opportunity to become a keeper for the day!

**The hardworking team of keepers at Auckland Zoo are always considering what our different animal species need to be healthy.**

We use the Science of Care approach to ensure that we cover all aspects of health for our animals - from their diet, environment and even behaviour.

Go through the stages of our at-home Keeper Training Camp and learn more about each of these areas to become a Trainee Keeper at Auckland Zoo - you can then share what you have learnt with us or your friends and whānau.



## Inside are different tasks to be completed as you practice becoming a part of the primate team at Auckland Zoo.

You will get to know the maki pūngāwerewere and learn how to care for these energetic tree crashers!

# Start your training off by *learning* more about spider monkeys



Learn more about this task here!



Watch the start of our video to learn more about spider monkeys or read about the species on our website

## Welcome to the primate team! Are you as excited as we are?

To start off with, you will gather information about the black-handed spider monkey to help improve your understanding of this primate species.

Watch our keeper talk to learn more about the species and how we use the Science of Care to look after them. You can also read more about spider monkeys by using the QR code to visit our website.

Think about what information you may need to do your job as a keeper, caring for these animals each day.

### You might ask questions such as:

What do they eat? Where do they live?  
What adaptations\* do they have to thrive in their environment?

Fill in the KWL (*Know - Wonder - Learn*) below, or make your own chart, to let us know what you learn along the way.



What I already KNOW	What I WANT to know/ What I am WONDERING about	What I have LEARNT

**\*Adaptations** a body part, feature or behaviour that helps an animal or plant succeed in it's environment.



Learn more  
about this  
task here!

# Next, get creative and try *drawing* the spider monkeys to learn about their different *body parts*

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Now that we know a lot more about spider monkeys and their adaptations, we need to learn what they look like to be able to do their daily health checks (following the Science of Care “health” aspect).

Every day as keepers, we need to make sure we carefully observe the animals to see if they require any extra attention or maybe even vet care. As keepers we look at how they are moving, eating and even look at their fingers and toes!

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## Complete this activity and learn important physical features of the spider monkeys.

They have white and brown fur with dark faces and hands.

**Colour the spider monkey.**



They have prehensile tails, capable of gripping branches.

**Draw a long curly tail for grip and balance.**

Spider monkeys mostly have a diet of fruit and leaves.

**Draw some food around your spider monkey.**

Spider monkeys have four fingers and no thumb to help them move swiftly through the tree canopy.

**Draw four long fingers on the hand of the spider monkey.**



Learn more  
about this  
task here!

# Keep that zookeeper creativity flowing and *create* a spider monkey habitat of your own!



Watch our live cam of the spider monkey habitat to help you with this task

## Now we are going to design a new habitat for the spider monkey troop at Auckland Zoo!

We will have to make sure it has everything they need as part of the “environment” aspect of Science of Care.

Follow our design brief outlined below to make your model habitat- you could draw it,

use items from around your house to build it or make it out of recycled products (get creative!). Make sure you explain all of the features you include in the habitat too.

To get some ideas, you can watch the live cam of the spider monkeys at the zoo to see how they move in their current habitat.

### Design Brief:

- Spider monkeys are arboreal which means they spend most of the time in the tree canopies
- They are native to Central & South American rainforests
- They need areas to sleep, eat and take shelter
- There needs to be enough room for eight spider monkeys
- Spider monkeys always avoid water like streams, ponds, rivers etc
- You need to make sure they cannot escape and that it is safe for them to move around

### Draw a sketch of your design here:



Learn more  
about this  
task here!

# Now it is time to *design* a spider monkey behavioural enrichment activity

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## Well done on getting this far through your training!

Next we will be getting into behavioural enrichment for the spider monkeys. You have to carefully design at least one of the spider monkeys' daily enrichment activities.

It fits into the "behaviour" aspect of the Science of Care. Follow the design brief below to draw or create something that will engage the spider monkeys in natural behaviours.

Make sure you pay attention in the video to understand more about enrichment activities.

## Design Brief:

- Has to be safe for animals
- Consider their diet and what ingredients you could use
- Needs to encourage them to use their natural behaviours  
(looking over previous tasks might help you find out what these are)
- Think about their body and the way they use their different adaptations (like their amazing tail or their long fingers!)\*
- Where will it go in their habitat? Will it be hung up high or on the ground? How can you make it challenging for a clever spider monkey?

## Draw a sketch of your design here:

**\*Remember** spider monkeys have only 4 fingers on each hand and no thumb! Spend 5 minutes trying to do tasks around your home using only your four fingers (maybe putting on shoes or eating) - did you find this easy? Or was it tricky? Consider this when you are designing your spider monkey enrichment activities!





Learn more  
about this  
task here!

# Finally, spend some time *thinking* about some conservation actions you could take to help this species

## Now for a really important part of your job as a keeper, raising awareness to help spider monkeys in the wild!

Did you know that spider monkeys are endangered in the wild? This is mainly due to deforestation of their habitat and as we know, spider monkeys NEED trees!

Although spider monkeys are not found in the wild here in Aotearoa New Zealand, we can still do something to help them in our own whare (home).

As part of our Keeper Training, you are going to do an audit (inspection) of the

paper products in your household to see whether they are sustainable or not. Some examples of paper products that we have in our home are:

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Tissues
- Drawing Paper

Complete the survey below to see if you and your whānau are using sustainable paper products in your whare.

Look for the below logos on your paper products. If there are some that don't have these logos, try looking for a different brand next time you are visiting the supermarket to buy some!



### We are looking for either of these symbols on the packaging of our paper products.

These symbols tell us that the paper products are sustainably sourced, and don't come from destroying forest habitats in other parts of the world!

Has the FSC or PEFC logo	Doesn't have the FSC or PEFC logo	Not sure as we don't have the packaging (find out next time you visit the supermarket!)

## TRAINEE KEEPER EXPERIENCE

# Congratulations

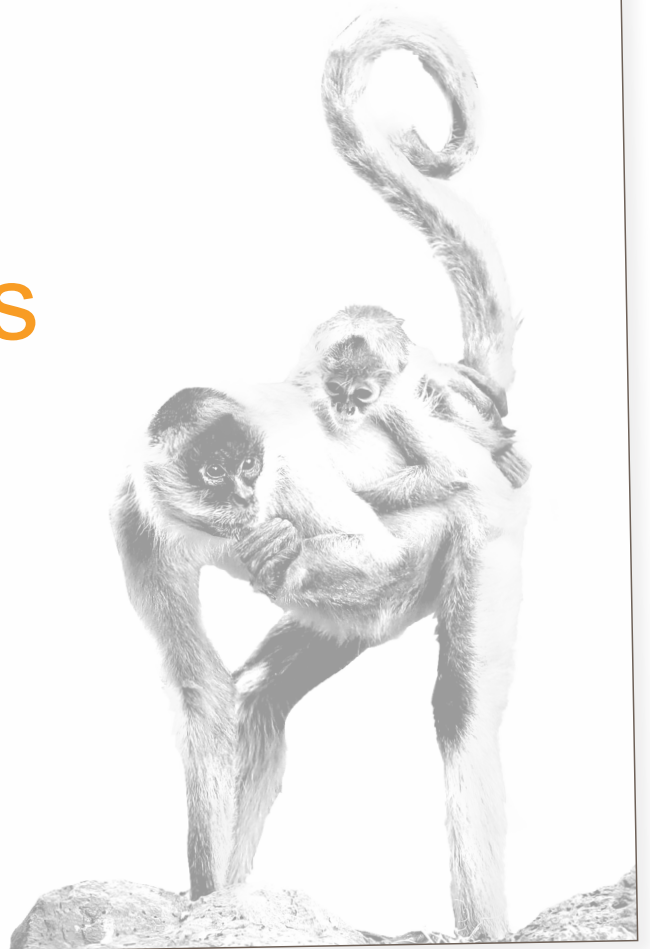
*A huge congratulations on completing your training!*

*You are now well-equipped to be a Trainee Keeper for  
spider monkeys at Auckland Zoo!*

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Share what you have learnt with your whānau  
as well as with us at Auckland Zoo!

[#createwithaucklandzoo](#)



**Write or draw any important thoughts you have below.**

What was your favourite part of your training? What important information did you learn? What animal would you like to study next?



## Video links:

**Trainee Keeper for spider monkeys** <https://bit.ly/3ACi2Oe>

**Spider monkeys** <https://bit.ly/3AyWsKe>

**Spider monkey cam** <https://bit.ly/3FNI46b>

