

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?

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 Five Domains of Animal Welfare to ensure that we cover all aspects of health for our animals. The ones we are responsible for are; nutrition, environment, physical health, and 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.

Share what you have learnt with us or your friends and whānau.



Watch our animal experience team at work during their flight school!

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

Our Animal Experience team care for a variety of species from birds to ectotherms.

They work with them to create engaging experiences to connect our visitors to the animals and important conservation messages.



Start your training and learn about sulphur-crested cockatoos



Learn more about this task here!



To start off with, gather information about sulphur-crested cockatoos to help improve your understanding of this bird species.

Watch our video to learn more about the species and how we use the Five Domains of Animal Welfare to look after them.

You can also read about sulphur-crested cockatoos 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.

Questions you may ask:

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*):

Write in the chart below, or make your own chart, to let us know what you learn along the way.



Learn more about sulphur-crested cockatoos on our website

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* a sulphur-crested cockatoo to *learn* about their different body parts

Now that we know a lot more about sulphur-crested cockatoo and their adaptations, we need to learn what they look like to be able to do their daily health checks (following the Five Domains of Animal Welfare “physical 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 feet and beak!

Complete this activity and learn about important physical features of the sulphur-crested cockatoo

Sulphur-crested cockatoos can raise and lower their crest to communicate with other individuals. It can also be used to make them look bigger to scare off any possible predators.

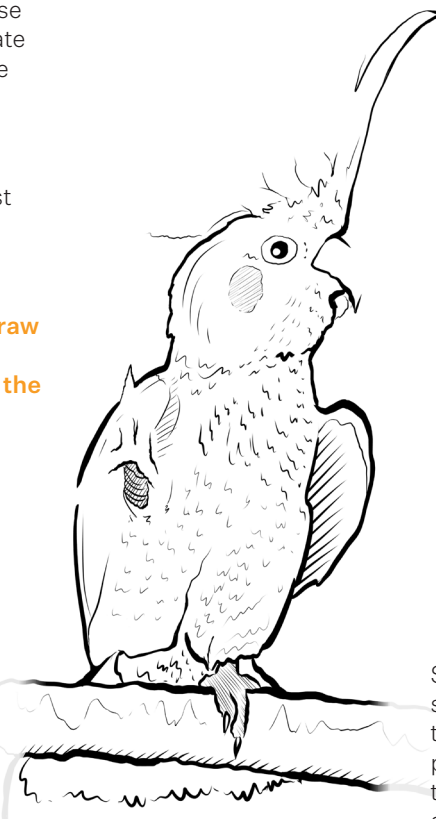
Sulphur-crested cockatoos have bright yellow plumage on their crest and feathers. The name “sulphur” refers to their yellow colouring.

Observe the sulphur crested cockatoo in our video and then draw a raised crest on your sulphur-crested cockatoo and colour it in the same colours.

Sulphur-crested cockatoos have zygodactyl feet. This means that they have two toes facing forward and two toes facing backwards.

Having zygodactyl feet helps sulphur-crested cockatoos climb really well and they can even use their feet to hold objects so they can manipulate them with their beak.

Draw the zygodactyl feet onto your sulphur-crested cockatoo. Make sure each foot has four toes in total.



The beak of a sulphur-crested cockatoo never stops growing! They have particular behaviours and actions that help to keep their beak in a good condition and length.

Sulphur-crested cockatoos use their beak to strip bark off trees and to make tree hollows larger to nest in, this helps maintain their beak. They also use their beak to manipulate objects and to open up tough food sources like nuts.

Draw the strong, sharp beak on your sulphur-crested cockatoo.

Sulphur-crested cockatoos have strong, flexible tongues that help them when feeding. Like other parrots, their tongue have bones in it to help them manipulate objects and access different foods.

Draw the tongue on your sulphur-crested cockatoo.



Learn more
about this
task here!

Keep that zookeeper creativity flowing and *create* a sulphur-crested cockatoo habitat!

Now we are going to design a new habitat for the sulphur-crested cockatoo at Auckland Zoo!

We will have to make sure it has everything they need as part of the “environment” aspect of the Five Domains of Animal Welfare.

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.



Watch this video to see Captain's current daytime habitat as well as having fun with our Tamariki Time.

Design Brief:

- You need to design a space for the sulphur-crested cockatoo, Captain
- Remember that cockatoos like to chew throughout the day, make sure your materials are safe but also strong
- How will Captain move from his daytime to nighttime habitat

Draw a sketch of your design here:





Learn more
about this
task here!

Now it is time to *develop* a sulphur-crested cockatoo behavioural enrichment item or activity

Well done on getting this far through your training!

Next we are going to look at the “behaviour” aspect of our Five Domains of Animal Welfare. Your job is to create a behavioural enrichment item or activity to engage a sulphur-crested cockatoo in expressing their natural behaviour.

It might be something you make to place in their habitat or something you do with the sulphur-crested cockatoo to engage them.

For some tips to help you out, watch the video to see one way our keepers engage in behavioural enrichment with our sulphur-crested cockatoo, Captain.



Watch this video to see Captain's current daytime habitat as well as having fun with our Tamariki Time.

Design Brief:

- Needs to be safe for the animals and keepers
- Consider his intelligence and how you could vary or build on it over time
- How could you use his habitat or other birds from the Animal Experiences team
- Consider his size and movement

Plan your activity here:

Finally, spend some time *thinking* about some conservation actions you could take to help our endemic birds of Aotearoa.

Now for a really important part of your job as a keeper: Protecting birds in Aotearoa with some Wild Work action!

Sulphur-crested cockatoos are an introduced species here in Aotearoa and there are still some wild populations in the Waitakere Ranges! They compete with our endemic and native birds for nesting sites and also food.

Introduced species competing with our native and endemic birds puts more pressure on them. As part of your keeper training, you are going to complete a bird survey in your own back yard or at school.

By completing a bird survey you will assess whether you have endemic birds that you need to protect or introduced birds that you need to monitor.

Once you have completed the bird survey, you could create a homemade nectar feeder to encourage more endemic birds into your garden.



Follow the QR code for an explanation of how to complete a 5 minute bird survey

Complete your own bird survey!

Date: _____

Time: _____

Survey location: _____

Birds you saw:

People, dogs or cats you saw::

TRAINEE KEEPER EXPERIENCE

Congratulations

You have completed your training
and are now well-equipped to be a Trainee Keeper
for sulphur-crested cockatoos at Auckland Zoo!



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:

Sulphur-crested cockatoos <https://bit.ly/3TLpf9y>

Meet the animal experiences team <https://bit.ly/3QjYiHq>

Learn more about sulphur-crested cockatoo <https://bit.ly/3JrwRJw>

Tamariki time with Captain <https://bit.ly/3d7qnDw>

Bird survey <https://bit.ly/3JujE2u>

