

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?



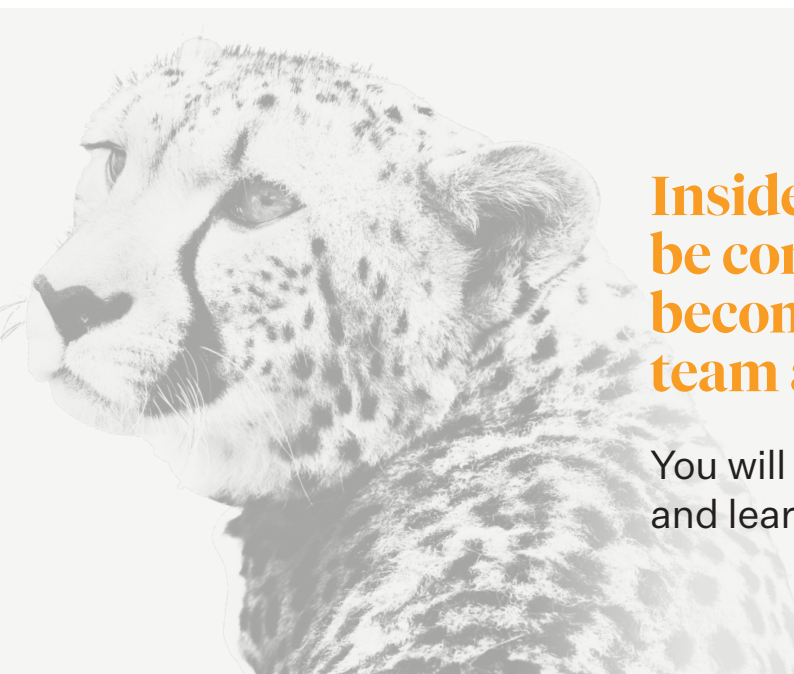
Read about the
Science of Care here

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 - you can then share what you have learnt with us or your friends and whānau.



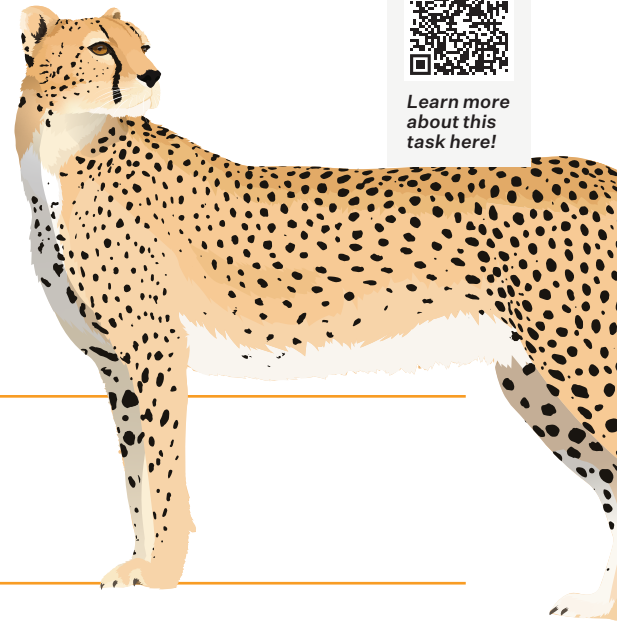
Inside are different tasks to be completed as you practice becoming a part of the carnivore team at Auckland Zoo.

You will get to know the tita (cheetah) and learn how to care for these big cats!

Start your training off by *learning* more about cheetahs



Learn more about this task here!



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

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

To start off with, you will gather information about the cheetah to help improve your understanding of this big cat.

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 more about cheetahs 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* a cheetah to *learn* about their different body parts

Now that we know a lot more about cheetah 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 need to look at how they are moving, their activity levels and behaviour!

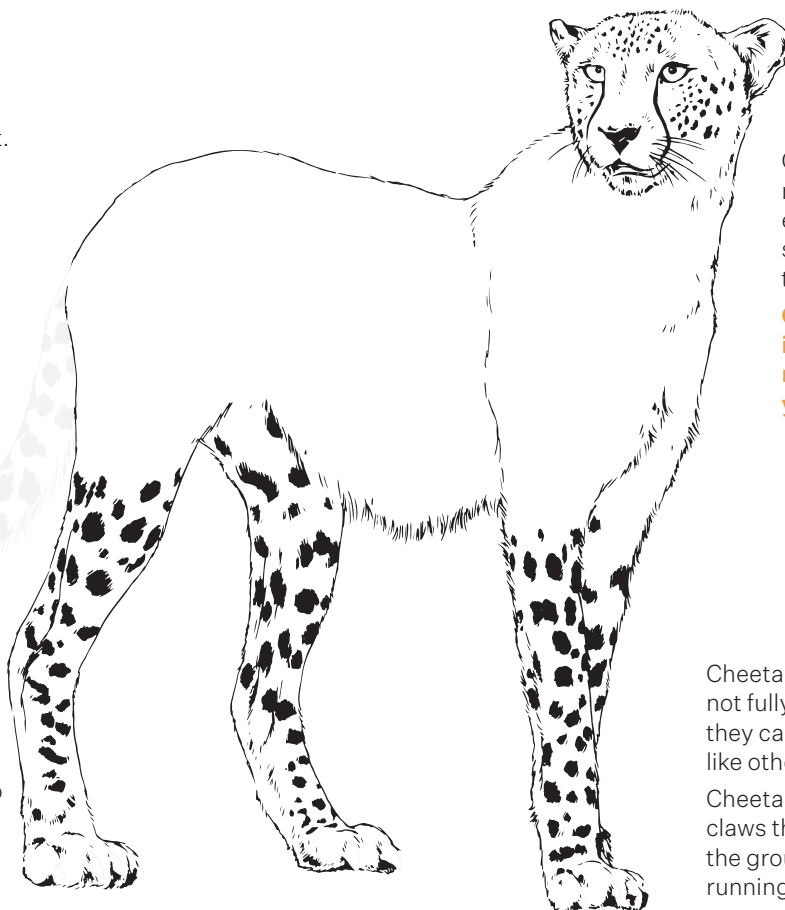
Complete this activity and learn about important physical features of the cheetah

Cheetahs are covered in spots so they look similar to their surrounding habitat (camouflage). This helps them to blend in to their environment. Each cheetah is covered in 2000-3000 spots and all of them have a unique pattern. Our two cheetahs at Auckland Zoo are sisters but you can tell them apart by looking at their spots!

Draw the spots on your cheetah.

Cheetahs have long, muscular tails that help them balance when they are running after their prey. A cheetah can run up to 103km/hr and so their tail helps them to balance when turning corners at this speed.

Draw a strong, muscular tail onto your cheetah.



Cheetahs have unique markings under their eyes that act like sunglasses and protect their eyes from the sun.

Observe the cheetahs in our video and match the colour on your diagram.

Cheetahs have claws that do not fully retract. This means they cannot hide their claws like other species of cats.

Cheetahs have strong, blunt claws that help them to grip the ground when they are running at top speed.

Draw claws on the paws of your cheetah.



Learn more
about this
task here!

Keep that zookeeper creativity flowing and *create* a cheetah habitat of your own!



Watch our video to see Qia and Quartz's habitat in Africa and the different spaces we have at Auckland Zoo.

Now we are going to design a new habitat for the cheetah group 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.

To get some ideas, you can watch the video to see how the cheetahs interact and move in their habitat.

Design Brief:

- You need to design a space for our two adult cheetahs
- They come from a hot climate so you need to think how they will stay warm in winter and bask in the sun in summer
- Cheetahs have amazing eye sight so they need somewhere high to look around as well as exciting things to look at
- They will need shelter for sleeping, shade and protection from the weather
- Cheetahs will need space to move and areas to engage with enrichment items

Draw a sketch of your design here:



Learn more
about this
task here!

Now it is time to *develop* a cheetah behavioural enrichment task

Well done on getting this far through your training!

At Auckland Zoo our keepers create enrichment tasks for our cheetahs. This ties into our “behaviour” and “physical health” aspects of the Five Domains of Animal Welfare.

As keepers it is important to study and collect data about our animals. One way of collecting data for our cheetahs are our specially designed collars that they sometimes wear.

These collars tell us how often the cheetah are moving and when they are most active.

This helps us to design our enrichment tasks and give it to them at the time of the day they are most active.

Our cheetah sisters enjoy enrichment exercises such as having different smells placed in their habitat for them to investigate.

Your job is to design an enrichment activity for our cheetahs that they can enjoy in their habitat.

Design Brief: Plan your activity here:

- Needs to be safe for the animals and keepers
- Consider their adaptations and natural behaviour
- Make sure it can be done in their habitat
- Consider the use of food
- Our keepers can be in the habitat with the cheetahs

Finally, spend some time *teaching* others about *responsible* pet ownership to help protect the wildlife of Aotearoa.

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

In Africa, cheetahs are the most endangered big cat, this is partly due to humans killing cheetahs if they are found on their farms. Cheetahs may hunt and kill the farmers' livestock like goats and sheep, which impacts on the farmers livelihoods.

At Auckland Zoo, we have supported Cheetah Outreach since 2004. Part of this program is to train guard dog puppies to look after livestock flocks such as sheep. The dogs bark when a cheetah approaches and the cheetah quickly moves away.

This has led to a decrease in livestock loss due to cheetahs hunting and a decrease in cheetahs being killed by farmers.

It is important for us to think about our responsibilities when we share a space with wild animals such as birds and lizards in Aotearoa.

Task 1

Create a behavioural enrichment item for you own pet, to keep their brain engaged.

Task 2

Or research and create a resource (*video, booklet, poster etc*) about responsible pet ownership that you can share in your community (*local vet, school, display at a park etc*)

Some topic ideas are:

- Why dogs should be on a leash
- Why cats should wear collars
- What to do if you find injured wildlife



Learn about animal behaviour here to help you with your task

Draw or write your idea here

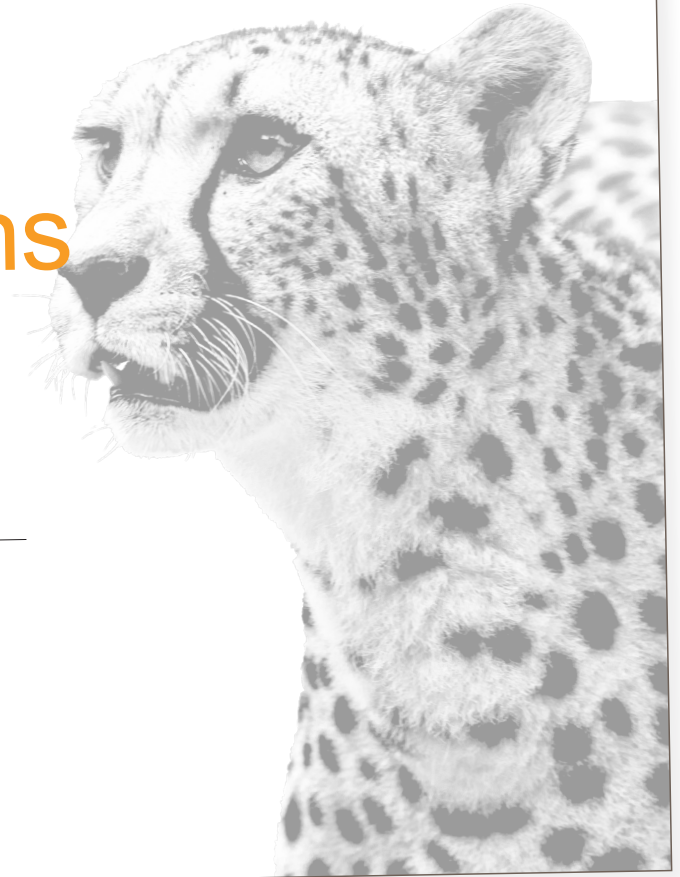
TRAINEE KEEPER EXPERIENCE

Congratulations

You have completed your training
and are now well-equipped to be a Trainee Keeper
for cheetahs 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:

Trainee Keeper for cheetah <https://bit.ly/3Op0ZHD>

Learn more about cheetahs <https://bit.ly/3LmK5XJ>

Cheetah habitat at Auckland Zoo <https://bit.ly/3DADmH7>

Animal behaviour <https://bit.ly/3OwmM00>

