If you are interested in working with marine animals, here are a few things you should know before getting started.

- Many careers that involve working with marine animals require a four-year college degree and/or a specialized degree in a certain area of interest.
- Some areas to further explore during your studies include agriculture, biology, marine biology, zoology, animal behavior, animal science, animal care, psychology, environmental science, duties of a veterinarian and veterinary medicine.
- Experience in public speaking and communication is extremely valuable and plays an important role in many animal-related occupations.
- Serving as an intern and/or a volunteer is a great way to gain hands-on experience and to get your foot in the door. There are many marine animal organizations and rehabilitation centers that offer internships and volunteer programs. However, any intern or volunteer experience with animals is helpful (i.e. vet clinic, animal shelter, horse ranch, zoo or aquarium).  

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| Animal Keeper                                  | Four-year degree preferred.  
  Desire to work with animals.  
  Ability to lift 50 pounds.  
  Good communication skills, both written and verbal.  
  Good customer service skills.  
  
  - Maintain clean and safe living conditions for the animals  
  - Daily cleaning of habitats and other related areas.  
  - Prepare diets and monitor nutrition needs.  
  - Monitor water quality.  
  - Provide behavioral enrichment and observation.  
  - Assist with arranging social groupings and handling of the animals for husbandry procedures.  
  - Transport animals.  |                                                                                              | - Zoological parks  
  - Aquariums  
  - Permitted private collections  
  - Rehabilitation centers  
  - Adventure parks. | $15,000 - $60,000 |
| Animal Trainer                                 | Four-year degree preferred.  
  Desire to work with animals.  
  Ability to lift 50 pounds.  
  Strong public speaking skills and showmanship.  
  Good customer service skills.  
  CPR and First Aid certification.  
  Strong swimming ability and SCUBA certification for marine mammal trainers.  
  
  - Maintain the health and well-being of the animals  
  - Daily cleaning of habitats and other related work areas.  
  - Prepare diets and monitor nutritional needs.  
  - Produce enrichment, exercise and training through operant conditioning.  
  - Understand the use of positive reinforcement to reward desired behaviors and build relationships with the animals.  
  - Observe physical and behavioral changes in the animals.  
  - Interact with the public by giving fun and engaging presentations demonstrating animal characteristics and behaviors.  |                                                                                              | - Zoological parks  
  - Aquariums  
  - Permitted private collections  
  - Adventure parks. | $18,000 - $60,000 |
| Aquarist                                       | B.S. degree in Marine Biology, Marine Science or other related field.  
  CPR and First Aid certification.  
  Ability to lift 50 pounds.  
  Good communication skills, both written and verbal.  
  Good customer service skills.  
  SCUBA certification.  
  
  - Maintenance of live exhibits.  
  - Regular cleaning of live exhibits and habitats.  
  - Prepare diets and monitor nutritional needs.  
  - Life support checks that focus on all mechanical and electrical operations of the exhibits.  
  - Water quality analysis.  
  - Aquariums of fish and crustaceans such as: Artemia, crabs and prawns.  |                                                                                              | - Zoological parks  
  - Aquariums  
  - Permitted private collections  
  - Aquapark organizations. | $20,000 - $60,000 |
| Educator (Aquarium, Zoo, Wildlife)             | Four-year degree.  
  Formal or informal teaching experience.  
  Skills in curriculum and program development.  
  Strong communication skills, both written and verbal.  
  Good customer service skills.  
  Likes to work with people.  
  Conservation-minded.  
  
  - Develop and implement a wide variety of education and interpretation lessons for all ages.  
  - Follow current science standards.  
  - Responsible for handling live animals to enhance presentations.  
  - Manage programs of children, adults and mixed audiences.  
  - Evaluate programs and analyze results.  
  - Write articles for publications, both printed and online.  |                                                                                              | - Zoological parks  
  - Aquariums  
  - Adventure parks.  
  - Federal, state and city government agencies. | $18,000 - $60,000 |
| Marine Mammal Scientist                        | Advanced academic degree (M.S. and/or Ph.D).  
  Practical experience in field research applications.  
  Grant writing experience.  
  Experience with statistical analysis.  
  
  - Work in specialized areas such as biological oceanography, fisheries or marine mammalogy.  
  - May work in the health of applied science or basic science.  
  - Teach scientific courses.  
  - Conduct research studies.  
  - Develop and collect data on marine animal behavior, ecology and social structure such as population dynamics, foraging and breeding strategies.  
  - Conduct long term assessments of environmental quality using marine mammals as indicators of ecological change and establish baseline data that can be used for conservation purposes.  
  - Analyze data in a scientific laboratory.  
  - Research genetic and evolutionary relationships of marine mammals.  
  - Study marine mammal anatomy, physiology and geographic distribution.  
  - Conduct statistical analysis of data.  |                                                                                              | - Zoological parks  
  - Aquariums  
  - Colleges  
  - Universities.  
  - Federal, state and city government agencies. | $20,000 - $70,000 |
| Marine Policy Coordinator/Enforcer             | Academic degree (B.S. or higher).  
  Desire to work for marine issues.  
  Strong communication skills, both written and verbal.  
  No record of felonies (for government positions).  
  
  - Develop, evaluate and enforce a variety of government policies and laws that affect the ocean and ocean animals.  
  - Responsible for determining, enforcing and revising specific regulations for commercial and public use of marine environments.  
  - Facilitate field operation, staff and logistics.  
  - Able to respond quickly to an operational crisis.  
  - Facilitate field operations and staff logistics.  
  - Develop and implement a wide variety of education and interpretative lessons for all ages.  |                                                                                              | - Non-profit environmental organizations  
  - Federal, state and city government agencies such as: NOAA, NOAA Sanctuaries. | $20,000 - $65,000 |
| Stranding Coordinator/Rehabilitator            | Must be able to work outside in the elements.  
  Desire to work with animals.  
  Ability to lift 50 pounds.  
  Good communication skills, both written and verbal.  
  
  - Respond to reports of stranded animals and rescue as necessary.  
  - Transport animals from the field to a rehabilitation center or clinic.  
  - Collect samples from stranded animals.  
  - Administer treatments, assist veterinary staff as needed.  
  - Prepare animals for release or placement in human care.  
  - Assist in necropsy and report needs as required.  |                                                                                              | - Zoological parks  
  - Aquariums  
  - Sanctuaries.  
  - Reserves.  
  - Non-profit environmental organizations. | $16,000 - $45,000 |
| Veterinary Technician/Technologist            | Veterinary Technician License. Certification or Registration  
  Veterinary Technician is a Diploma Program.  
  Veterinary Technology is a Degree Program.  
  Desire to work with animals.  
  
  - Collect specimens and samples from animals.  
  - Administer treatments.  
  - Conduct clinical laboratory diagnostic tests to establish information for each animal.  
  - " Vet tech" maintains animal medical records.  
  - Assist veterinarians and research staff.  |                                                                                              | - Veterinary offices  
  - Zoological parks  
  - Aquariums  
  - Permitted private collections  
  - Research organizations  
  - Teaching colleges. | $18,000 - $35,000 |
| Veterinarian                                  | Veterinary medical degree (D.V.M. or V.M.D.).  
  Desire to work with animals.  
  Good customer service skills.  
  
  - Oversee all aspects of animal health care.  
  - Practice preventive health care.  
  - Train staff to implement voluntary medical exams for sample collections such as blood, urine, fecal and others.  
  - Surgical diagnosis.  
  - Conduct medical research on topics such as physiology and disease.  |                                                                                              | - Veterinary offices  
  - Zoological parks  
  - Aquariums.  
  - Permitted private collections. | $55,000 - $130,000 |