

Zoo Vets

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Zoo Vets

What Are Zoo Vets?

A vet is someone who has been trained to look after animals when they are sick or injured.

Some vets look after pets, such as cats, dogs and rabbits. Other vets look after farm animals, such as cows, horses and sheep. And other vets look after animals that live in zoos or wildlife parks, such as elephants, crocodiles, lions, monkeys, tortoises, lizards, bats and many more. These vets are called zoo vets.



A zoo vet checks the health of an elephant.

Zoo vets are specially trained to work with animals in zoos. They try to keep the animals healthy, and they treat them when the animals are sick or hurt.



A zoo vet takes care of a leopard cub.

In most zoos, animals live in large **enclosures**.

There are plants, trees, rocks and pools in the enclosures that are similar to the animal's natural **habitat**.

Some zoos have large open **ranges**, where animals can roam freely.



These rhinoceroses can roam freely in this open-range zoo.

Some zoos keep mostly one kind of animal, such as koalas or tigers. Other zoos breed **endangered** animals, so they will not become extinct.

Zoo vets work in all these kinds of zoos.

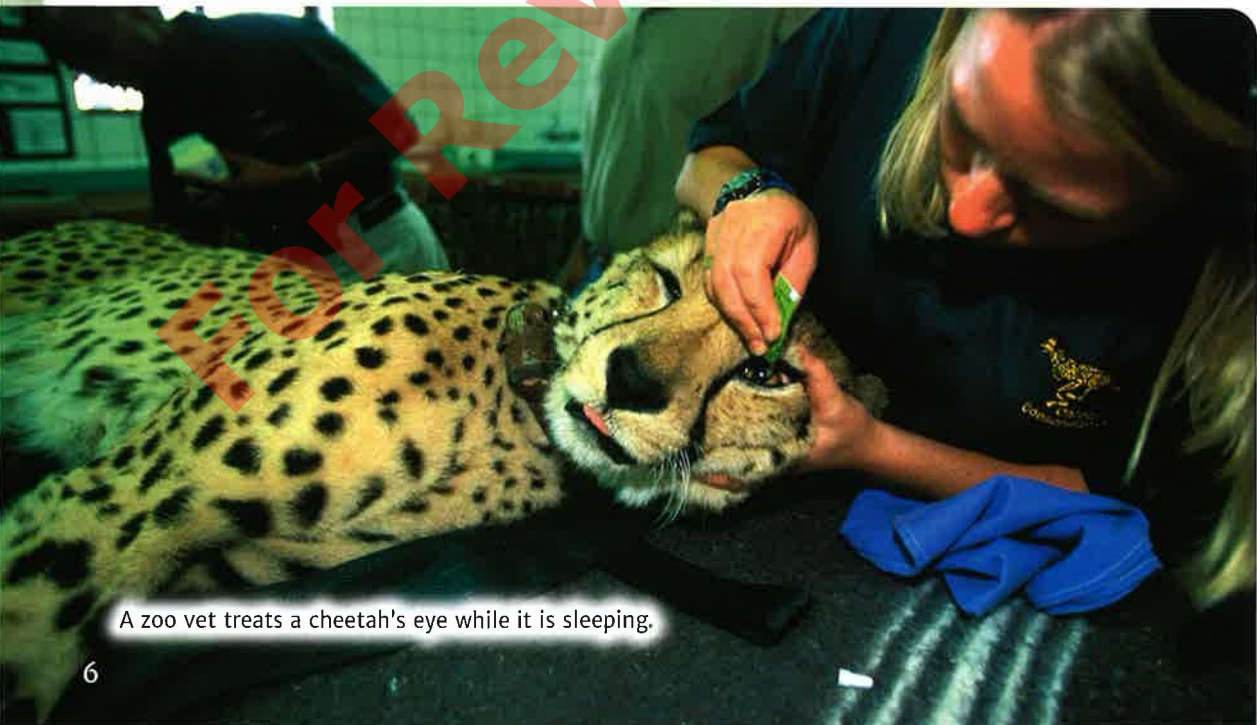


Vets care for an endangered tiger that has been rescued, before it is transported to a zoo.

What Zoo Vets Do

The biggest part of a zoo vet's job is keeping the animals in the zoo healthy. The vets check the animals every day for any signs of illness. Treating a sick animal quickly can stop diseases from spreading among the animals.

Sometimes, zoo vets do **research** about animals in the zoo. They might try to find out how fast a cheetah can *really* run, or what the best food is for a rare bird, such as a bird of paradise from Papua New Guinea. This knowledge is shared with other zoos. It helps scientists and vets to understand more about the animals.



A zoo vet treats a cheetah's eye while it is sleeping.

Moving Animals

Zoos sometimes swap, or exchange, animals for breeding. A zoo with two female animals might swap one with a zoo that has two male animals of the same **species**. Then the animals may **breed**.



A pair of hippos enjoy the water together in their enclosure.