So you want to be a zookeeper?

Yes, I've wanted to take care of animals my whole life!

Have you gone to college yet to get a degree in animal science, biology, zoology, or a related field?

No, but I'm looking for schools that have programs like that that I could study.

Check out the AAZK Careers webpage for schools that have good programs that will give you training/background on professional zookeeping, then study hard!

Yes! I have a college degree* in one of those fields**

Do you have hands-on experience taking care of animals? Pets*** don't count...

No, where do I get that experience?

Yes! I have at least a year of hands-on experience!

Look for volunteer and internship opportunities!

Check out the AAZK jobs page for current listings!

Welcome to your career as a zookeeper!

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* A college degree isn't always required, but it is becoming more and more common for jobs to require one.

** If you have a degree in a subject other than something like animal science, biology, or zoology, it doesn't mean you can't pursue a career in zookeeping, but you might want to hone your knowledge about these topics.

*** The best kind of hands-on experience is with the kinds of animals you will be applying to work with. If you are applying to work with animals that would be considered pets, then your experience in a pet shop would be more applicable.

****Remember, zookeeping is a highly competitive profession. Even if you don't get hired right away, keep trying!