Friends, Food, and Fun at the Zoo . . .

It's playtime at the zoo. A rhinoceros and a goat are playing with a ball. The zoo's crew set up the playtime to let the animals have some fun. Find out how the zoo's crew helps provide friends, food, and fun for the animals.

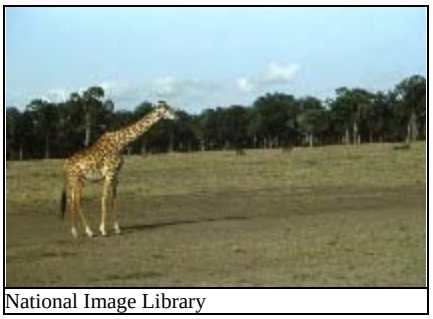
Animal Keepers

An animal keeper's job is to make sure that his or her assigned animal is taken care of and healthy. Animal keepers feed, clean up after, and play with their animals.

Animal babies need extra-special attention, especially in the beginning of life.

Terry Blakeslee is a keeper of animal **infants**[1] at the San Diego Zoo. Her job is to help the babies grow up healthy and to teach them to live on their own.

Blakeslee sometimes feeds the babies with bottles. She says the trick to working with an animal is to act like the baby's mother by using sounds, movements, and touch. Once the baby is strong enough, it can live on its own.



National Image Library

1 infant: newborn child or animal

ReadWorks.org
PROVEN TOOLS FOR TEACHING COMPREHENSION
Text: Copyright © 2003 Weekly Reader Corporation. All rights reserved. *Weekly Reader* is a registered trademark of Weekly Reader Corporation. Used by permission. From *Weekly Reader 2, Student Edition*, 4/1/03.
© 2010 Urban Education Exchange. All rights reserved.

Question Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

"Friends, Food, Fun, at the Zoo . . ." Questions

_____ 1. An animal keeper needs to be
- a. kind.
- b. knowledgeable about animals.
- c. gentle.
- d. all of the above.

_____ 2. The author writes, "an animal keeper's job is to make sure that his or her assigned animal is taken care of and healthy." In this sentence *his or her*, refers to:
- a. the animal.
- b. the animal keeper.
- c. the baby.
- d. the author.

_____ 3. In order to take care of infant animals, the animal keeper must be
- a. nurturing.
- b. fast.
- c. loud.
- d. courageous.

_____ 4. When the goat and rhinoceros are together they are often
- a. fierce.
- b. aggressive.
- c. playful.
- d. hungry.

_____ 5. Explain why the author chose the title "Friends, Food, Fun at the Zoo . . ."

_____

_____

_____

© 2010 Urban Education Exchange. All rights reserved

Name: _____ Date: _____

"Friends, Food, Fun, at the Zoo . . ." Answer Sheet

C 1. An animal keeper needs to be
   a. kind.
   b. knowledgeable about animals.
   c. gentle.
   d. all of the above.

PR 2. The author writes, "an animal keeper's job is to make sure that his or her assigned animal is taken care of and healthy." In this sentence *his or her*, refers to:
   a. the animal.
   b. the animal keeper.
   c. the baby.
   d. the author.

C 3. In order to take care of infant animals, the animal keeper must be
   a. nurturing.
   b. fast.
   c. loud.
   d. courageous.

C 4. When the goat and rhinoceros are together they are often
   a. fierce.
   b. aggressive.
   c. playful.
   d. hungry.

TF 5. Explain why the author chose the title "Friends, Food, Fun at the Zoo . . ."

Answers will vary. The passage is about the animals' "friends" (their keepers) and how baby animals are fed. "Friends" also may refer to the rhinoceros and goat who are playing together. This title prepares the reader for what they will read about.

© 2010 Urban Education Exchange. All rights reserved