

Rick Hester

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## **Abbreviated Resume**

### **POSITIONS HELD**

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Curator of Behavioral Husbandry	September 2020 – Present
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Animal Behavior Programs Manager	March 2018 – September 2020
Behavior+ Works, LLC. Course co-instructor and behavior consultant	September 2017-Present
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Senior Lead Animal Keeper: Monkey Pavilion	August 2015 – March 2018
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Animal Keeper: Monkey Pavilion	June 2010 – August 2015
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Animal Keeper: Commissary/Hippo/Penguin	November 2009 - June 2010
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Animal Keeper: Relief/Rover	April 2009 - November 2009
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Animal Keeper: Bird and Reptile House	March 2008 - August 2008
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Relief Night Keeper	November 2007 - February 2008
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Orangutan Hand-rearing Team Member	April 2007 - February 2008

## **OTHER APPOINTMENTS**

May 2018 – Present: Functional Assessment and Intervention Design (FAID) Student Worksheet Reviewer. IAABC Principles and Practices Course, Dr. Susan Friedman module.

September 2017: Workshop Chair of the New World Primate TAG Husbandry Workshop hosted at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo.

March 2014: Founding member of Cheyenne Mountain Zoo's Animal Training Peer Mentorship Program.

## **EDUCATION**

### **Pikes Peak Community College**

Associate of Applied Science degree in Zoo keeping Technology

Graduated with honors August 2013

## **CONTINUED EDUCATION**

April 2019: Attended Denver Zoo workshop – Implementing Your animal Wellness Program

November 2015: Attended New World Primate TAG husbandry workshop at the San Diego Zoo.

September 2014 and 2015: Audited the 8 week tele-course “Living and Learning with Animals” The science and technology of behavior change. Taught by Professor: Susan G. Friedman Ph. D.

September 2013: Completed the 8 week tele-course “Living and Learning with Animals” The science and technology of behavior change. Taught by Professor: Susan G. Friedman Ph. D.

November 2012: Attended New World Primate TAG workshop at the Palm Beach Zoo in Florida.

September 2012: 3-day hands-on animal training workshop at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo with Steve Martin from Natural Encounters Inc.

May-September 2008: Attended animal training lectures by Steve Martin and Natural Encounters Inc. Worked closely with staff from Natural Encounters for several months following, learning about animal training and development of educational shows and animal programs.

## **SELECT PRESENTATIONS**

Animal Training Academy Podcast with Ryan Cartlidge - Episode 151, July 2021

“Getting Guests Involved at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo” NEI TEC Talk - Interactive Animal

Experiences Week, June 2021

“Quality Connections in Zoo Consulting: Improving Outcomes and Creating a Legacy” with Dr. Susan Friedman, ABMA Annual Conference April 2021

“Innovation Through Collaboration – What’s New at the Zoo” with Dr. Susan Friedman, Clicker Expo Live, January 2021

**SELECT CONSULTANCIES**

Melbourne Zoo, Australia  
Zoo Knoxville, Tennessee