

## Interview #1 – Ark Valley Humane Society

In my interview with the Ark Valley Humane Society, I learned some of the skills and education that is needed in the animal adoption field, and also some of the advancement that can take place in this field. I interviewed Linda, a pet adoption specialist in the Humane Society.

I found that the most education that you would need for the job at the Ark Valley Humane Society specifically was a basic High School Diploma or the equivalent. Linda told me that most of what you learn is done at the job, a sort of “internal learning” as she worded it. Even though she went to college to become a Physical Education teacher, she found that the job working with animals better suited her personality. I learned that most of the people who work in shelters or kennels seem to have a more outdoor personality, which is better because of the time they spend outside playing with the animals in the shelter.

When I asked her what was involved in the job, she told me that most of the things that take up your time are the learning that you have. You learn a lot about the animals in the shelter, which is a very good thing to be intuitive about, seeing as how you match up the animal’s personality with an owner that fits them. For example, when you get to know a fun loving, energetic puppy, you gain the knowledge that the puppy would do best in a home with an active lifestyle that has enough energy to keep up with it. Linda also told me that where you start is basic care of the animals, which involves things like feeding and giving them basic care and human interaction. She also told me that there was a lot of customer service, paper work, and good judgment involved in the job.

As for fitting in with the personal life, Linda told me that the more active you are the better. People who work in the shelters have to be able to keep up with the animals and sometimes move some heavy items like food or the animals themselves. She also cautioned me that working in a shelter or kennel can take over your thoughts, like all you think about when you go home is the animals and how you are going to find them the best possible life they can get. It takes up a lot of your free time, sometimes you spend all week at the shelter helping with new animals coming in, and you develop a dedication to the animals.

Basically what I learned from my interview with Linda is that working with animals to get them adopted into a home might not be the best job you can get, but it is one that takes a passionate and dedicated person with a warm heart to get the best job possible done.

*This is wonderful!*