

Name of collection

My career goal: Business and administrative

Contributors name:

Hayley Kelly

I'm Haley Kelly. My job is admin manager. And also, I stand in as shop manager, as well. What I enjoy most about my job is that it's so diverse. It's different every day. Although I'm office-based, really, I do get out to see the animals on a daily basis. I deal with all the adoption cards and things, so I have to go around the enclosures.

So I do get to go out and spend some time on the wildlife park with the animals, as well. So it's absolutely great, and the rewards are fantastic, especially when you've had a sick animal or an animal that's been in pregnancy and you see the end result, where the animal has recovered very well or they've given birth and you have little nippers running around the park. It's great.

I was pretty lousy at school, to be honest. I wasn't very good at all. I don't think I was very pushed at home to do my homework. My parents didn't really take much notice whether I did it or didn't. And I do regret it, because I wish I'd done much better. But yes, it was always a case of if you could get out of a lesson or thing, what excuse could you make to get out. So I wasn't a brilliant student, I'm afraid.

I left home when I was 16 and took up a job at Tesco's and worked there for four years because I had to pay my lodgings. But then I did go to night school, and then started work at a travel agency and had a fantastic time. Worked for some really nice people, got to travel quite a lot. We had the opportunities to build up some good friendships in it, as well.

Meeting Alex and Jake was a great opportunity in my life. And by meeting them, I came to work here, and I haven't looked back. I've loved every day that I've worked here. I mean, when I first came, it was more like a little farmyard park. Although they did have a few exotic animals, it was nowhere near the extent that we do have now. So over the last 10 to 15 years, it's grown to unrecognizable to what it was before. It's much more based on the educational side and the conservation, as well, of the wilder animal, rather than on the native species.

I've always had a passion for animals. We've always had animals at home. But it was probably when I first met Alex and Jake and they brought me over here and I started to interact more intimately with the animals, being able to go into their enclosures and touch things, like they had a kinkajou monk-- kinkajou bear, sorry, that used to be brought up in the house. And she was lovely. She was an absolutely beautiful animal.

And you just think, you know, this is so amazing to be able to touch these animals and look after them and care for them.

Inspirational people, probably Jake, actually, Jake who used to run the park. He just has opened up so many doors for himself, and he's just an amazing person, how he has gone out and grabbed every opportunity and made such a big success of it.

I think we've all made mistakes in our lives. I think we all have made mistakes. But I wouldn't say I've ever made any mistakes that have been detrimental to my moving on or anything, no. No, and I don't really have any regrets.

In the next five years, where do I see myself? Probably still here, actually, still doing the same things. If it's not broken, why fix it? I love it here. It's nice that you get involved in everything. They involve me in all the decision-making. They do ask my opinion on things. And so I love being here.