Indianapolis Zoo

Who am I and what am I doing there?
Linda Beverly
Senior Trainer, Marine Mammals

- Grand Rapids Baptist College - BA Psychology
- 5 years working with troubled youth
- 16 years raising my own troubled youth
- On to higher intelligence
Zoo & Aquarium Careers

- Education
  - Interaction Programs
  - Naturalists
  - Educators
  - Aquarist

- Training
  - Show
  - Research

- Research
  - Genetics & breeding
  - Medical studies
  - Field studies
  - Rescues

Pakak Rescue 2012
Getting your foot in the door

For Marine Mammals:

- Need 4 year degree
  - Hard sciences
  - Social sciences
- Need SCUBA certification
  - Physically fit
  - Strong swimmer
- Need animal experience
  - Volunteering
  - Internships
Internships, the 12 week interview

- Be teachable
- Have a good work ethic
  - Take initiative
  - Work hard
  - Take responsibility for your actions
- Don’t be competitive – your chance to show you are a team player
  - Deal with conflict directly & honestly
- People skills are more important than animal skills
  - Hone your public speaking
Paraprofessional Organizations

- IMATA: International Marine Animal Trainers’ Association - [imata.org](http://imata.org)
  - Association of Zoos & Aquariums - [aza.org](http://aza.org)
  - American Association of Zoo Keepers - [aazk.org](http://aazk.org)

Other resources