

Keeper profile:



Name: Ellie Pearson

Age:13

How long have you been a keeper in the Reptile House?

A little over 1 year

Which animals do you enjoy working with the most?

Snakes

What has been one of your most memorable moments in the Reptile House?

When I first became a Keeper I was hoping to become a Head Keeper of one snake and ended up being Head Keeper of 2, and now I am a team leader, this has made me really happy.

What do you enjoy about being a keeper in the Reptile House?

I love working with animals and making sure they're looked after ? I really enjoy going to Victorian Herpetological Society meetings and their expo. I love learning about the animals and since becoming a Zoo Keeper I now have 3 lizards and 3 snakes at home and I hope my collection continues to grow.

What are your aspirations for the future?

I want to be a vet, specifically for reptiles, or a zoo keeper.

Which animal is your favourite and why?

Diesel, a children's Python because he is a really placid, adorable snake and was the first animal I was Head Keeper of.

Tells us a little about this animal .

I've been working with Diesel for a little over a year now. He's easy to take care of only needing food once a week. I've just got to make sure he has fresh water, a clean cage, and is held often.

Diesel is a Children's Python, which comes from Northern Australia so he likes it warm.

He eats small rats or adult mice. He's my favourite snake because he is one of the friendliest snakes I've ever met and is loved by most people. He is perfect to handle and shows people that snakes are not bad and he helps people get over their fear of snakes.

Team Leader: Quarantine

Ellie was recently the successful applicant for the position of Team Leader for Quarantine which is a very important role on the leadership team for the Reptile House. This role sees Ellie receiving, at times, up to 30 new animals that she may have never worked with or seen before and little is known about their captive care. These animals can come from various sources and need to be monitored carefully for disease and parasites. Ellie is responsible for overseeing the care of these animals for up to 6 months. When asked about the role Ellie had the following to say:

I really enjoy the role, it's really exciting when we get new animals and I'm the first to see them and take care of them. I like working in a smaller quieter environment with just a few people so I can easily focus on the work that needs to be done. Some of the animals come in with health issues and I like that I can make a difference and help them to get better.