



International Zookeeper Day 2026

#internationalzookeeperday #IZD2026 #KeepersWorldwide

Dear Animal Care Colleagues,

International Zookeeper Day (IZD) was established by the International Congress of Zookeepers (ICZ) in 2015 to recognize all professionals who dedicate their lives to caring for animals across zoos, aquariums, sanctuaries, rescue centers, parks, and reserves. As stated in your 2026 packet, IZD encourages programs and activities that “promote awareness of the important role of zookeepers in wildlife conservation.”

On **October 4th**, we pause to honor the commitment, skill, and compassion of keepers worldwide. Zookeepers matter—so celebrate, share, and uplift the profession.

Connect with ICZ:

Website: ICZoo.org

Facebook: International Congress of Zookeepers

Instagram: [@iczookeepers](https://www.instagram.com/iczookeepers)

LinkedIn: International Congress of Zookeepers

Sincerely,

Sara Steward

ICZ Executive Officer

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www.iczoo.org





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Press Release

WORLDWIDE- International Congress of Zookeepers invites global participation in the annual celebration of **International Zookeeper Day on October 4**. The date honors St. Francis of Assisi, long celebrated at Barcelona Zoo since 1957 as the patron saint of animals.

IZD recognizes all who work to improve and protect the lives of wild animals—through husbandry, conservation, education, research, and rescue. As your 2026 packet states, “All who work to improve and save the lives of animals shall be commemorated on this day.”

ICZ encourages institutions and individuals to host activities, share stories, and highlight the essential role keepers play in wildlife conservation.

How will you celebrate International Zookeeper Day? Please share with us!

For more information about International Zookeeper Day, please visit the following:

Website: ICZoo.org

Facebook: ICZ (International Congress of Zookeepers)

Instagram: [@iczookeepers](https://www.instagram.com/iczookeepers)

LinkedIn: International Congress of Zookeepers



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Social Media Campaigns

Share Your Story

Celebrate International Zookeeper Day by sharing on your personal or institutional social media. Post about **being a zookeeper, what zookeepers do, how you became a keeper, why you love your job, what you're grateful for, why zoos matter, or what conservation efforts you've participated in.** These authentic stories help the public understand the profession and build appreciation for animal care teams and connect you and your institution to the global celebration! Please be mindful of how wildlife is portrayed to avoid misrepresentation and follow your institution's social media policy. **By sharing your photo, you grant ICZ permission to repost it across ICZ platforms and materials.*

Official 2026 Hashtags

Use these consistently to join the worldwide conversation:

- #InternationalZookeeperDay
- #IZD2026
- #KeepersWorldwide

International Zookeeper Day

October 4

Please join us on **October 4th** to stop and reflect on the huge contribution Zookeepers make to the care and conservation of all species great and small.

In 2015 the International Congress of Zookeepers (ICZ) established the International Zookeeper Day (IZD) on October 4th to promote awareness of the important role Zookeepers play in wildlife conservation.

Get sharing!

Please Note: When you share photos always keep in mind how the images are portrayed and how the public might perceive the animals in them or your profession.

#internationalzookeeperday #IZD2024

Instagram: @iczokeepers Twitter: ICZ (International Congress of Zookeepers)
LinkedIn: International Congress of Zookeepers

Get together and celebrate!

- Socialise with colleagues.
- Promote awareness of prioritising mental health as a zookeeper
- Nominations and an award ceremony.
- Raffle or trivia quiz.

- Food! Enough said.
- Scavenger hunt.
- Special talks and encounters.

Change your profile picture

With one of IZD badges

Or print stickers, shirts, or even pins!

iczoo.org



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Events and Activities Reference Sheet

- Enrichment demonstrations
- Team social events (breakfast, lunch, after-hours)
- “Keeper Olympics” (relay races, hose challenges, hay-bale stacking)
- Tree planting or habitat improvement projects
- Recognition signs for teams or departments
- Fun videos or TikToks
- Awards ceremony
- Scavenger hunt
- Trivia or raffle
- Custom IZD shirts, buttons, or pins

Fact Sheet

About ICZ

Founded in 2000, ICZ is a global network of zookeepers contributing to the highest standard of professional animal care and the role of zoos today.

About International Zookeeper Day

A global celebratory day honoring all who care for animals across zoos, aquariums, sanctuaries, rescue centers, parks, and reserves.

Why October 4?

Honors St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals, celebrated at Barcelona Zoo since 1957.

Why IZD Matters

Many species face extinction, and “for many we are their last hope.” Zookeepers work long, demanding hours in all conditions and deserve recognition for their essential role in conservation.

Who should you contact with questions?

Sara Wunder Steward, ICZ Executive Officer

s.steward@iczoo.org

International Zookeeper Day & FREE Logos