

Leslie Pon Tell-Schreiber

Education:

Leslie PonTell graduated from the Exotic Animal Training and Management Program at Moorpark College. She attended Hayward State University of California, studying Zoology; spent a summer at Kenyatta University, in East Africa, studying Wildlife Management. She is a graduate of the American Zoo Association's Professional Management School. In the State of California, she is a licensed Animal Health Technician and has a Limited Teaching Credential for Community Colleges.

Experience:

Leslie PonTell has worked in the animal field for over 30 years. She started her career as an **Animal Health Technician** for a small and large animal Vet Clinic. She has worked as a **Zookeeper** for various facilities and as an **Animal Trainer** and **Handler** for the Television and Movie industries.

Leslie was employed for 7 years at Moorpark College as the **Assistant Director** and part time **Instructor** for the Exotic Animal Training and Management Program. She was responsible for the daily operations of the small teaching zoo, supervising the students and teaching college level courses for the program. Her other duties included the health management of the 200 animals, fundraising and public relations.

From 1986 to 1996 as the **Co-Owner/Co-Director** of the Bowmanville Zoological Park in Ontario, Canada, Leslie, a Director of the Executive Board, was part of the redevelopment and long range planning for the small private zoo. She had hands-on involvement in all aspects of the daily operations of the facility, including the management of the zoo's gift shop and assisting with the restaurant. She worked closely with the zoo's veterinarian and zookeepers overseeing the health and management of the animals. She was one of three people qualified to handle and care for the Asian and African elephants housed at the zoo.

Another area of Leslie's expertise was the development and implementation of the in-house and off-site educational programs for children and adults. She also worked with World Wildlife Fund in developing a special educational program on elephants. Leslie, in charge of the zoo's administrative office, organized the Zoo's Family Season Pass Program. She was in charge of personnel and involved with the zoo's finances, marketing and public relations.

During her years in Canada, she was a professional member of CAZPA (Canadian Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums) and was an elected member of the Board of Directors. She also sat on the Board of Directors for the Tourist Association of Durham Region and was an active member of the Professional Women's Group of Bowmanville.