

Ann Littlewood Biography



After high school in Sacramento, California, and college in Portland, Oregon, Ann Littlewood worked as a zoo keeper at the Portland Zoo (now called the Oregon Zoo) for twelve years. She was assigned mostly to the nursery, where she raised cats, including lions, a tiger, sand cats, servals, and cougars; primates including mandrills and an orangutan; and native mammals such as black-tailed deer, raccoons, black bear, and harbor seals. She also raised parrots, grouse, wood ducks, penguins, and a multitude of owls in a rehabilitation program.

She has been scratched, bitten, pecked, stepped on, and taloned. In one memorable episode, she waded into a stock tank with a baby hippo to give it an enema. She can spell diarrhea on her good days and knows that “enrichment” in the zoo world has nothing to do with money and everything to do with mental stimulation.

Littlewood wrote for the Oregon Zoo newsletter and she has published articles in *Primates*; *International Zoo Yearbook*; and *Animal Keepers' Forum*, the journal of the American Association of Zoo Keepers.

Although the financial realities of raising primates (two boys of her own) eventually led her to exchange a hose and rubber boots for a briefcase and pantsuit, Ann has maintained her membership in the American Association of Zoo Keepers, and has kept in touch with the zoo world by visiting zoos wherever she travels. Her business writing career took her to Automated Data Processing and then to Kaiser Permanente. “Mystery writer” is her latest incarnation.

Ann now spends many hours at fictional Finley Memorial Zoo in Vancouver, Washington, enmeshed in adventures with any animal she feels like while channeling Iris Oakley, her mystery-solving protagonist. She has published *Night Kill* and *Did Not Survive* with Poisoned Pen Press. She lives in Portland with her husband and a small but very hairy Corgi-mix.