

ZOOS

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By Saffron Sharifi

What is a zoo?

Zoos are places where animals from foreign countries that are endangered are kept in fenced in areas to be helped. Animals in the zoo are mainly endangered. Animals in the zoo or in captivity deserve their same natural habitat expectations, like have enough room to roam, and animals to hunt in their environment. Animals in the zoo are treated physically fine, but the zoologists in the zoo should find a way to help these endangered animals another way, and give the animals a real life.

THE HISTORY OF OLD ZOOS

Zoos have existed for over two thousand years. Back then zoos were very different; they had a different purpose. Zoos were made for very wealthy people and their families to be entertained. They were also a sign of power for the wealthy people. Zoos were also made for collections, because emperors and kings and queens were just starting to find traveling routes to other countries, and they were amazed by animals that they had never seen before.

ZOOS TODAY

Today, zoos are for a different purpose. The Wildlife Conservation Society says they made their zoos (such as the Queens zoo, Bronx zoo, Central Park zoo, and Prospect Park) for conservation. They are saving endangered species. For example, the Bronx Zoo is helping conserve (save) the Poisonous Frogs by looking around the world to understand their needs, of those kinds of frogs that are in danger, and help them to recover. Another purpose of WCS is education. The WCS wants people to learn about certain animals from around the world, and also for research where scientists are discovering and learning about the animals.

People have different ideas about what a zoo is for. For example the African Lion Safari and the Wildlife Conservation Society have different opinions. The WCS's opinion is that a zoo for is conservation, education, and research. The African Lion

Safari's opinion for zoos is only for education and entertainment.

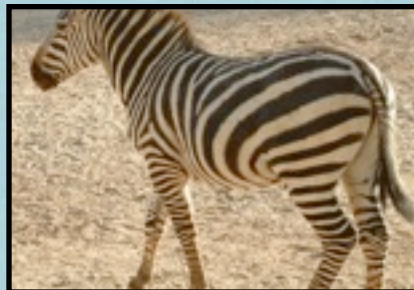
Would you put a horse in a fishbowl? Would you put a lizard in a horse stable? No, so would you want to be a wild animal that was once free to roam in your natural habitat and then live in a very small area with a fence around you and not be able to hunt for your food; this is called a zoo. Zoologists try and help some endangered animals by capturing them and giving them a safe home where they can breed inside the zoos. I think zoologists need to find another way to look after animals closer to their natural habitat.

RESOLUTION

If you are really dedicated and love animals, they need to live in their habitat. Zoologists need to work hard to stop whatever the problem is that is harming the animals. If people are hunting them, speak to the government.



Poor lion!! This lion would be in his natural habitat but he is living in a zoo for us to watch all day.



This zebra would be with a large group, and on the African safari. Instead, he is single without his natural friends.



Elephants in zoos are a major issue because elephants would be roaming 10 miles a day. No zoo can even compare to that natural resource.

FUN FACTS

1. The largest zoo in the United States is the San Diego zoo in California with 4,500 animal's and 900 species. In the United States there are 287 zoos including sanctuaries. California has 22 zoos and Texas has 21 zoos.
2. When I visited a zoo recently, one of the elephants was swaying her trunk back and forth. I took a clip of her, which you can view on the right. At the end of the clip you can hear a woman say: "If I could just do that all day, man that would be pretty sweet." I also overheard a little girl ask her mother what the elephant was doing. Her mother answered that the elephant was "dancing the sad truth ..."
Repetitive movements like trunk swaying are clear signs of stress. Since most of us only

FROM THE WILD TO THE ZOO



know these wild animals from seeing them in zoos, it isn't easy to recognize stress behaviors. Zoo keepers either aren't aware of these signs themselves, or they aren't eager to explain them to us.

3. Elephants in the wild, for instance, are used to traveling many miles a day in herds of about ten related adults and their offspring. They are very social animals.

In zoos, elephants are usually kept in pairs or even isolated. Their enclosures are incredibly small, compared to what they are used to in the wild. Elephants often show many signs of being stressed out or bored, engaging in repetitive movements.

