

Should Animals be kept in Zoos?

Zoos are the premises for captivity to animals, and are often situated in the urban areas with limited spaces to offer natural game reserves. These sanctuaries provide ample chance for studying the nature and species of animals, as well as providing a viable opportunity for the public to view these animals. Today, zoos have become very common, and the society is drifting from the natural animal reserves to zoos where they get to have a wider perspective of animals in a small unit. Ideally, zoos have become very common in the current generation. Thus, these zoos act as the places of the last resort for the livelihood and existence of the animals. Divergent opinions have been fronted to either accredit or discredit the existence of zoos. Different thoughts and narratives have been fronted to support the either viewpoint, but no common position has been realized. Proponents of zoos believe that they act as the places for the last resort of animal sanctuary, and promote the animal welfare, while opponents of the zoos, think otherwise, claiming that these animal husbandries have been limited and ruined the rights of wild animals. Besides, counterclaims state that Zoos are just exploitative techniques by a few individuals who solicit for monetary gains while disregarding the welfare of animals. Indeed, the most important concern is the viability and feasibility of a zoo to an animal life. Therefore, this essay focuses on the real reasons why Zoos exist, and consider the strong views posited by the proposers, and at the same time discussing counterclaims to the existence of the zoos. Thus, this essay is multifaceted, capturing both sides of the narrative. However, the conclusive remarks will strongly justify why zoos should be favored as the best animal sanctuary regardless of the counterclaims.

This is the first side of the argument, which posits positive factors associated with keeping animals in zoos. Therefore, proponents of zoos believe in their viability and

importance for animal lives. The following reasons and justifications point out to the importance of zoos in the contemporary society. The first and the most ulterior reason why zoos should be established is anchored on the argument that they provide points where the general public can acquire exhaustive education about animals, their behaviors, and inner traits, and the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust states that zoos can really act as a sure destination for wildlife conservation (Laldlaw 1). Thus, these places act as scientific research centers and aid in the conservation efforts on animals that could be extinct if left in the parks. Feldman states that getting rid of zoos would be a tragedy for animals and the human existence. For example, visitors would never appreciate the worth of conservation if they did not see tigers or elephants in the zoos (Are zoos bad news 1). Ideally, zoos provide a major role in educating people about the importance of animals and the overall wildlife conservation.

Different zoos managements are guided by education standards on different levels of learning. For example, the San Francisco Zoo offers distinct education programs to children of different age strata. The children aged between 1 and 17 years have their specific educational programs, and get the required knowledge within the sanctuary. Moreover, students from campus onwards have mobile programs, whereby the Zoo management could arrange for an animal transfer to their respective schools. Essentially, this statement confirms that zoos are beneficial in offering the necessary education to all levels of learning, and without their existence, it would be hard for children to capture and study the behaviors of animals at their comforts. Furthermore, the members of the public get the privilege to study and learn about the animals they might not have seen. For example, a curious member of the public would get a hands-on reply if he or she asks about the behavior of a lion. These zoos

have trained experts, who are conversant with the animal behavior and have rich information to deliver to the audience.

Other zoos like the Lindsay Wildlife in California offers similar education incentives to the members of the public, who wish to have extensive studies on animals. For example, the management here offers exhaustive education to the public about the need to conserve the welfare of the wild animals, and how best they can improve their natural habitats. Indeed, Zoos offer a connective experience between the artificial habitats to the natural habitats. The providence of these education programs promotes the conservation efforts of the zoos by the public. Moreover, zoos are special sanctuaries for the endangered species of animals. Indeed, some animals have become extinct over the past decades, and their extinction is attributed to the fact that there were no proper conservation efforts (Hosey, Vicky and Sheila 13). For example, animals like dinosaurs have disappeared from the earth's surface due to lack of proper incentives to harness their existence in their natural habitats. Ideally, the natural habitats sometimes change and become so hostile to the animals, which have to fight so hard to exist. However, the law of natural selection eliminates these animals since they can no longer cope with the existing climatic conditions. Meanwhile, the existence of zoos has enhanced the livelihood and existence of these species of animals that were once feared as fast fading from the earth. For example, animals like Rhinos could have exited the natural platform if zoos had not existed. In as much as extinction is a reality that can never be avoided, its reality has since been mitigated by the existence of zoos where professionals study the reactions and nature of animals and give appropriate care.

Indeed, poaching menace on certain animal species has been blamed as a reason behind the extinction of some animals. Therefore, zoos act as safe homes for animals from

poaching menace. Today, the Africa's elephant is on the brink of extinction due to the poaching menace. Ideally, poachers rely on these elephant and rhino tusks for illegal trade. Some of the products that come to the market in the form of ornaments are made from the tusks obtained from an illicit act of poaching.

Starvation has been cited as another reason behind the depletion of certain animal species. Notably, the change in the climate has subjected the animals to unpredictable changes in the condition of the habitats, thus depriving them of their daily and usual livelihood. For instance, drought has claimed the lives of several animals in the natural animal reserves. Consequently, the changes in weather patterns and climatic conditions have generated an unprecedented number of diseases that claim a population of animals in a shorter span of time. Pragmatically, the zoos act as safe sanctuaries to these animals against starvation. In the zoos, animals get optimal conditions for livelihood. For example, most cages are protected against harsh environmental conditions like severe sunlight. Animals also get enough food, instead of wondering in the wild, hunting for other animals. Weaker animals, which often serve as preys are protected from the unhealthy predation. Indeed, indiscriminate predation could cause an imbalance in the animal population, thereby destabilizing the existence of certain species of animals. Zoos offer safety against predation, which is an agent of extinction (Hosey, Vicky and Sheila 15). In a nutshell, this point clearly supports the establishment of the animal zoos considering their importance in preventing

extensive predation, poaching, and offering safety against harsh environmental conditions, which might have been caused by climatic changes.

Principally, Zoos are very sensitive to the continued existence of animals. Naturally, zoos act as pro-creation places for certain breeds of animals. In fact, there are breeding programs on some species of animals. Such programs or efforts can never be provided if these animals were left in the wild. Artificial insemination is a procedure where the semen of an animal is taken to another for a possible fertilization. In most sanctuaries, animals do not have to undergo the practical mating, but are induced by artificial insemination process for possible procreation, and the generation of new offspring. The problem of finding mates in the low-population animals is significantly avoided due to the establishment of breeding programs in the zoos. Indeed, we would not see certain species of animals if such programs were never in existence.

Another reason why animal zoos should be encouraged attributes to their economic impacts on a country. Today, human population has subjected pressure on the natural resources, and most regions do not have enough space to create natural conservancies and animal reserves. The pressure on the resources has pushed the human settlement, to the once animal natural habitats. However, countries have to conserve the existence of their animal heritage. Thus, zoos provide an amicable solution to this problem, which keeps pushing the society to the periphery. On the economic sides, Zoos are ever coupled with a buzz of activities, and this implies more income to a state. Most zoos are restricted areas where people enter upon making small payments. Therefore, the financial remittances to these zoos

promote economic growth in the country. Considering the impacts of these zoos to the economy, their further establishment is highly exonerated. Due to the smaller space requirement for the establishment of these zoos, even small towns can serve as a viable point for zoos, thus eliminating the need for an expansive region.

Ideally, the remittances from the zoos are specifically allocated for the development purposes of a country. Ideally, Zoos witness an increased number of guests during the holidays and weekends. Most people prefer taking their families to the Zoos for adventure and recreational purposes. Thus, zoos are very common even in the neighborhood towns, and people get a chance to see their animals of choice. A visit to the zoo creates zest and excitement to a family, who might be bored at home. Besides, these zoos do not require a lot of protocols since animals are confined in the cages for viewing. Unlike the wild where animals roam around, zoos never disappoint as an individual is sure to view any animal provided it is caged in a given zoo. Considering this side of the argument, zoos offer and complement conservatory efforts to the animals, which were initially fading off. Besides, zoos act as a rich place for collecting wild animals for studies and dispensing education programs to the citizens. Indeed, most zoos are operated based on the standards espoused for their operations. Such standards always ensure that the animals hosted are safe and free from any form of neglect or discrimination.

Despite the numerous reasons supportive for the establishment of zoos, certain counterclaims have been cited against the existence and establishment of these zoos. Therefore, divergent opinions have been formulated to discredit the creation of zoos, and the

main claims above. Notably, opponents attribute zoos to human captivity. Indeed, animals should be free to roam, mate and hunt their meals. Therefore, subjecting them to cages is an equivalent of human captivity. Just like human beings, a person held in captivity hardly produces, and often get stressed since he or she is deprived of the right and freedom to movement and association (York and Laura 87). Animals equally have families and perhaps friends and would wish to interact and relate with their family units freely. Zoos, on the same note, serve to isolate these animals from their basic families and friends. Principally, zoos do not provide the prerequisites of natural habitats, and instead, put too much pressure on the animals. Indeed, research has established that reintroduced animals have very high mortality rates compared to animals that are bred in their natural habitats, just like the case of Guerrilla restocked to the park (Angier 1). What this point implies is that the artificial habitats do not offer absolute conditions inherent in the natural habitats. Therefore, such animals find it hard to cope in the natural habitats, and often die off before coping and adapting to the natural conditions. Thus, zoos can never complement natural habitats in breeding animals. There is a strong correlation between the natural environment and the well-being of an animal, and as such an animal would slowly respond to the zoo's habitat. Indeed, most zoos do not provide the required healthy conditions inherent to the natural habitats. The mimics done on the artificial habitats can never generate conditions similar to the natural habitats. In fact, animals

in the zoos are highly limited to movement, and can hardly exercise beyond the cages and enclosures that are set aside as their new homes.

Opponents of zoos state that they are unhealthy to the lives of some animal species. The confinement can never work for bigger animals like elephants, which require expansive spaces to produce and exercise their activities. In most cases, these confinements generate boredom on animals, which get so nostalgic of their natural habitats (York and Laura 88). Meanwhile, such animals become highly aggressive and offended since they do not get the natural condition inherent to their natural habitats. In fact, several cases have been reported of animal attack in the zoos, and several lives have consequently been lost. Ideally, a confined animal gets wilder and can easily attack. Some animals have broken loose from their cages and attacked human beings. This is a clear case which exhibits zoos in the bad light as literal jails on animals. Thus, zoo's failed to meet the basic animal needs, but instead illicit aggressive reactions from the animals. Moreover, the anti-zoo crusaders argue that artificial zoos are deterrent to the animal's most critical stages and processes like hunting and activities. Animals, just like human beings have a craving for what they like most, especially the natural processes like sex and hunting. A sexually starved animal gets stressed and might become susceptible to various diseases. Indeed, sex is a basic need to animals, just like it happens to human beings. Depriving the animals their basic rights could lead to a case termed as zoochosis; what is an equivalent of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder in human beings.

Thus, the sufferance that human beings undergo when isolated is the same case with animals.

Zoos limit the privacy of animals since their cages are smaller than the natural habitats.

Animals tend to be shy, and often run away from human beings upon disclosure. The privacy

of animal is critical to their growth and development. Indeed, animals lack privacy in zoos

and suffer in silence and distress in these cages. Lack of privacy in the confinement of zoos

is a recipe for these animals to contract depression as well as an obsessive behavior disorder.

In fact, zoos could lead to the direct cause of depression, and eventually death on an animal.

In most cases, animals in zoos are ever inactive and sickling than their colleagues in then

natural habitats. This argument is very strong considering the numerous deaths of animals

that have existed in the zoos.

Conclusively, there is a bid distinction between natural and artificial habitats. The essay is focused in discussing the reason why zoos should be either encouraged or discouraged for animal protection. Indeed, both sides of argument hold relevance about the animal's wellbeing and life. Positive points relate zoos to recreational grounds suitable for families and bring the experience of an animal reserve closer and cheaper to people. Besides, zoos act as research sectors for animals, and indeed, various preventive measures can be installed to control an outbreak. Moreover, zoos act as education centers for the varied range of people so have become inherent to the society. Meanwhile, ant-zoo crusaders believe that zoos deprive animals their privacy and generate unprecedented stress on these caged animals.

However, Feldman states that most zoo operators have programs that prevent animals from getting bored and neurotic. Indeed, these counterclaims are less significant to the main claims that zoos generate toward the overall conservation of wildlife. Some of the problems cited about zoos can be managed, and can never distract the smoother operations of these zoos. Principally, the counterclaims lack significance over the main claims, which are solid and justified. Based on these sides of arguments, I come to a conclusion that merits supersede demerits of zoos, and I suggest that zoos should be carefully established. However, researchers should develop means that can enhance animal activity and resilience to depression and sexual urge. These factors would make animals cope well in the zoos without getting depressed. Thus, it is justified that zoos should continue to exist due to the vast benefits than the negative attributes state above.

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