

OPINION:

Should zoos be banned?



INTRO

What do you think of when you hear the word "zoo?" Do you picture a nice habitat or a spacious enclosure? Perhaps you think a zoo is a vacation for animals before they are returned to the wild? These ideas couldn't be further from the truth. Many animals who live in zoos never return to the wild. Zoos are ultimately harmful to animals for three main reasons. First, zoos breed animals inhumanely. Second, zoos are created to make money and not to benefit the animal. Third, zoos do not take good enough care of the animals. For these reasons, zoos should be shut down and banned, or stopped altogether.

BODY PARAGRAPH 1

One compelling reason why zoos should be banned is because they create a supply of animals inhumanely. Most zoo animals are bred inside zoos. Although their ancestry traces back to a wild animal, many are raised without a glimpse of their original homes. When zoos have too many animals, the "extra" animals are simply killed. An example of an unnecessary killing happened in 2014 at the Copenhagen Zoo in Denmark. That year, a giraffe named Marius was shot. Marius was raised as a baby in the zoo and was loved by the public. Still, he was killed despite a public outcry. The zoo's staff shot this giraffe because they didn't think his genes were useful for another generation of giraffes. They had other male giraffes they could use for breeding instead.

BODY**PARAGRAPH 2**

The second reason zoos should be banned is that they are a money-making scheme. According to the environmental online news website One Green Planet, increasing zoo ticket prices does not benefit animals, in the zoos or in the wild. The extra income goes toward building attractions that are meant to draw in greater crowds. The money is rarely used to improve the animals' living spaces or well-being.

BODY**PARAGRAPH 3**

Finally, zoos simply do not have enough resources to properly house the creatures that live there. Wild habitats cannot be remade in spaces where animals are held captive. An opinion article called "All the Reasons Why Zoos Should Be Banned" was published by Vice in 2015. It said polar bears in zoos have up to 18,000 times less space than they do in the wild. Animals cannot be healthy in zoos. Seventy-five percent of elephants kept in zoos are overweight, according to the article. Forty percent of lion cubs pass away before their full life span. This data supports the argument that zoos do not have the resources to support animals' well-being, health and populations.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, zoos inhumanely source and breed animals and they do little to benefit animals because they focus only on profit. Also, they cannot provide what is needed to support animals' lives. Zoos should reintroduce their animals into the wild or into sanctuary settings. This will have the added benefit of relieving zoos of the burden of keeping these animals alive. Isn't that a win-win?