

Discussion Text: Zoos

Many people believe that zoos are cruel and should be shut. However, there are plenty of people who support zoos and enjoy what they have to offer.

One of the main arguments presented is that animals that are kept in zoos are often kept in small, soulless cages where they become bored and disinterested in life. While this may be the case in poorly run zoos, there are plenty of zoos which offer a stimulating environment where the animals have plenty of space. Their enclosures are matched as best as possible to the animals natural habitat. They have trees, plants, vegetation and running water like they would have in the wild.

A second point that is often put forward is that animals in zoos miss the ability to hunt for their food and become depressed. This argument misses the point that animals in zoos are provided with a balanced, healthy diet which allows the animals to thrive. Good zoos also hide the food within the animals enclosures so that the animals have to find the food. This replicates as close as possible the hunting process.

Lastly, some people feel that animals should not be kept solely for our entertainment. It doesn't teach us the respect for animals that they deserve. Instead we view them as entertainers who are there for our amusement. Zoos do though provide us with a wonderful opportunity to get close to animals that we probably wouldn't get to see in the wild. They allow us to learn about them in an interesting way and to understand their importance.

Having heard some of the main arguments both for and against zoos, it is important that you now try and make up your own mind.