

## Zoo Opinion 1



The problem with zoos is that lots of them soothe their feelings of guilt by telling themselves that they are really doing these animals a favour by contributing towards the conservation of the species. The reality, however, is very different. Many of these animals that are bred in captivity never get to experience their true identity. They never get to roam around freely, making relationships and acting in a natural way. They are told what to eat, when to sleep, what to play with (if anything!) and how to act. They will never be released as they wouldn't be able to survive for more than five minutes in the wild. So, the next time you see an animal in the zoo, please consider these points and **DON'T** be fooled by the signs telling you the zoo is keeping the animal contained for the better good because this is definitely not the case!

Some might say that zoos help the animal have a longer life BUT does longer necessarily mean BETTER? Ok, so the animal might have another few years on this planet, but you have to ask yourself: does it really want those extra years? Wouldn't it be better to put it out of its misery sooner? In the wild, animals live life to the full every day, and, whilst I accept that this may mean they are subject to an early death by predators or disease, this still has to be better than sitting in a tiny cage having humans shout at you and having cameras flash at you all day, every day, doesn't it?

## Zoo Opinion 2



Can everyone afford a trip to Africa or the Arctic? I don't think so. This is where zoos come into their own. Instead of having to pay thousands on flights and travel, the cost of the zoo is nothing AND you are at least guaranteed to see some animals. There have been stories where people have paid extraordinary amounts of money to go on safari and they haven't even seen a bird! What a waste of money and time! Isn't it better to have these animals in zoos around the county so they are accessible to everyone and not just the elite who can afford it?

If someone has never seen a tiger in real-life, why would they bother donating money to save the tigers in the wild? However, once they have seen the beauty and majestic qualities a tiger has, by visiting a zoo, then they will surely be much more likely to donate in the shop or when they get home. Therefore, that one tiger in the zoo has helped save thousands of others in their natural habitats.

Some endangered species in the wild find it almost impossible to find a mate as their species numbers are so small, making an already awful situation even worse. This is where zoos with a comprehensive conservation programme come into their own. Through these programmes, animals can be paired up with a suitable mate and they will go on to have strong babies that have a good chance of being released back into the wild. The animals remaining in the zoo lead a peaceful and contented life with a companion rather than having the gruelling struggle of trying to find a mate for their whole life.