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Animals in Zoos

For



The world needs zoos



There is no doubt that zoos can still play an important role in today's world both by educating people about animals and by conducting scientific research. Zoos provide us with a way to enrich our experience while increasing our knowledge of the world around us.



It goes without saying that zoos give people a chance to see animals they would never see in everyday life. Lions roam the zoos of Japan and penguins can be found swimming in animal parks in Florida. The experience of seeing these amazing animals encourages people to take a deeper interest in nature, and that can only be a good thing. They say that one picture is worth a thousand words, and in the same way, a single encounter with a living animal in a zoo is worth a thousand photographs in any book or magazine.



Furthermore, zoos these days often place their animals in naturalistic settings. This allows visitors to see how animals really live in the wild, and the animals themselves are protected and cared for. In other words, zoos benefit animals as well as people. One notable success has been at Ueno Zoo in Tokyo, where gorillas have been able to give birth naturally in stress-free surroundings. Modern zoos and wildlife parks can hardly be considered animal prisons.



Some people seem to think that researchers at zoos conduct cruel experiments on the animals. In fact, much of the research that goes on in zoos is meant to find ways to protect endangered species and increase

wildlife populations. Researchers spend countless hours observing animal behavior to learn how they can improve animal habitats. Many zoos have “lending” programs for mating their animals with animals in other zoos. Building zoos and charging for admission makes it possible to support these important activities. 5



Is it really better to leave animals where they are so that they can be killed for sport or profit? Do we want to let economic development destroy the natural habitats of wild animals, guaranteeing their extinction by denying them a place to live? A world without zoos might end up being a world without any wild animals at all. 10

Notes

roam: 歩き回る **encourage:** 励ます、けしかける **be meant to ~:** ~することになっている
endangered species: 絶滅危惧種 **habitat:** 生息環境 **mate A with B:** AをBと交配させる
charge for ~: ~の料金を請求する **extinction:** 絶滅 **end up:** 最後は~になる

Exercises

Grasping the Argument

1. What is said to be a reason why zoos remain important in the modern world?
 - a. Zoos allow people to enjoy themselves fully on a day out.
 - b. Zoos inspire people to become seriously interested in nature.
 - c. Zoos enable people to read the explanations next to photographs.
2. The gorillas at Ueno Zoo
 - a. felt relaxed enough to have a baby naturally.
 - b. discovered a way to communicate with humans.
 - c. learned new methods for dealing with stress.
3. According to the writer, the research conducted at zoos
 - a. includes experiments that must hurt animals in order to help them.
 - b. can be carried out without charging people entrance fees.
 - c. involves working with other zoos to increase animal populations.

Finding the Right Words

1. Underline the expressions at the start of the first two paragraphs that make it clear that the writer is stating a strong opinion.
2. Choose the word or expression that best completes each item and write it in the empty space.

in fact	in other words	play an important role
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- a. Aquariums _____ in educating people about ocean life.
- b. Some people think that the cheetah is the fastest animal on earth. _____, a bird called a peregrine falcon can move much faster than a cheetah.
- c. As for me, I think cats are much less trouble to take care of than dogs. _____, I consider cats to be much better house pets.

Taking Part


Name five animals that you would expect to see in a zoo.


1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Replace zoos with something better

 Zoos should all be replaced by facilities devoted to protecting animal life. People have no right to keep animals shut up in cages just so they can enjoy watching them. It's meaningless to argue that we can remove the cages and let the animals roam freely—there simply isn't enough land for zoos to do that. Moreover, there is the very real possibility that 5 the animals might escape.

If you ask me, the idea that a “natural” environment can be created for wild animals is just wishful thinking. Wild animals are called “wild” for a reason, and the wild is where they belong. When animals are raised in any kind of captivity, they never learn the skills they need to survive on 10 their own, and their offspring depend all their lives on human keepers. They can never be happy in a life like that. When all is said and done, wildlife parks are really no better for animals than regular zoos.

 Instead of putting wild animals on display, we need to make it possible for them to return home. New facilities—we could call them “zooto- 15 opias”—should be built to care for injured animals and help endangered species to reproduce. Contact with humans would be kept to a minimum, and as many animals as possible would be returned to the wild. If people still wanted to see the animals, thick glass barriers would be used to prevent diseases from spreading in either direction—and worldwide 20 when people travel.

 We also need to be more realistic about what we can do to help animals. We certainly don't have to save every animal in danger of extinction—extinction is a natural process, too. As for education, modern technologies like streaming and virtual reality provide an obvious 25 answer. We hardly need to keep huge numbers of animals confined in small spaces just to satisfy human curiosity.

By making sure that more animals can return to their natural habitat, we can help maintain the world's ecosystem as a whole. Ultimately, that's what's best for animals and human beings alike. 30

Notes

wishful thinking: 希望的観測 **raise:** 育てる **captivity:** 監禁状態 **on one's own:** 自力で
offspring: 子供 **no better than ~:** ~も同然の **streaming:** ストリーミング配信・再生 (インターネットなどを通じて、データをリアルタイムで再生する方式) **A and B alike:** AもBと等しく

Exercises

Grasping the Argument

- The writer notes that animals raised in captivity
 - have offspring who rely on humans to survive.
 - soon learn the skills they need to live in the wild.
 - enjoy a comfortable life inside modern zoos.
- "Zootopias" would
 - put animals into cages when they have a disease.
 - allow visitors to see and touch the animals.
 - try to return endangered species to the wild.
- What does the writer regard as a realistic approach to take?
 - We should make sure that no animal species is endangered.
 - There are some animal species that can be allowed to die out.
 - Education must be sacrificed in order to protect wild animals.

Finding the Right Words

- Underline the part of the third sentence that shows the writer's opinion of the idea that animals can roam freely in zoos.
- Choose the word or expression that best completes each item and write it in the empty space.

devoted to instead of wishful thinking

- The entire documentary was _____ animals that live in the rainforest.
- It's _____ to say that we can improve natural habitats when we allow our cities to grow so rapidly.

c. There are lots of places to go on a day out _____
taking the family to the zoo.

Taking Sides

Circle **F** if the statement supports the **For** side, **A** if it supports the **Against** side.

1. (F A) Seeing the polar bears has made me want to learn more about how to stop global warming.
2. (F A) That tiger has been walking back and forth in her cage for the last 10 minutes.
3. (F A) The pandas need special care, so they're going to start charging visitors extra to see them.
4. (F A) The zoo in our city has started putting the animals in natural surroundings.
5. (F A) It's been reported that people are getting sick because of a virus that came from a zoo animal.

Choose **one** of the groups of words below to write an opinion either for or against zoos. Use the group that comes closer to expressing your own opinion. Then try to think of one more sentence to add.

For: I'm in favor of zoos because they _____

_____.

animals a place endangered give to live

Against: I think zoos should be banned because animals _____

_____.

returned to should be to live the wild