

Some people think zoos are all cruel and should be closed down. Others however believe that zoos can be useful in protecting wild animals.

From menageries owned by kings and sultans in the past to modern wild parks, putting wild animals on display has been a long-time interest for the human race. The existence of different forms of zoos, however, has been frequently questioned as many consider this invading wildlife despite the arguments made for ~~zoos~~these places.

The first point to be made is Zoos can provide a sanctuary for endangered animals. With various natural disasters, whether human-made or not, cunning hunters and even natural predators many species ~~of~~are now on the brink of extinction. dwindling animal populations/Population falling of some rare animals has worried many animal lovers about losing them altogether. Human involvement, therefore, is believed to be the only viable solution since it provides a preserved environment for breeding programs and protecting the animals from their possible threats. In addition, **advocates** of zoos often point to their educational role. For many urban citizens, seeing a wild animal beyond a fox or pigeon seems absolutely fictional, let alone a lion or a giraffe. Hence, zoos may appear to be the only window to wildlife they can **peep** through.

On the other hand, some animal activists maintain that the zoo advocates' arguments are flawed. Firstly, the majority of zoos, the ones in third-world countries, in particular, fail to meet the standards to remotely simulate the natural habitat of their wild residents; perhaps they are secure in the knowledge that there is no international institute to shut them down. Even in more developed countries, there is still room for improvement in an attempt to recreate wildlife. This disparity between the animals' natural and artificial habitat may cause them to develop physical and mental disorders such as boredom and depression.

More importantly, from the welfare point of view, it is wrong to keep animals in captivity or restrict their movement as it is the case in national parks. Although many zoo lovers raise the question of 'captivity or extinction?', it has never been ~~to~~upon us, humans, to call either side of the coin. This is indeed the violation of animal rights and yet another piece of evidence to prove that we are abusing our position as the dominant species on the planet.

In conclusion, in spite of the ostensible benefits of zoos for animals such as providing protection and breeding grounds, captivating them is by no means morally acceptable. Let us put our human world in order and let animals look after themselves; what they had been successfully performing for millions of years and will be in the future.