

“Keeping Animals in Zoos is Unethical”

Most Inhuman

A Zoo is no longer a learning place—it is just like any other picnic spot or a hangout. You



go there, have your share of fun and leave behind the garbage. Then you come home and talk big on ways and means of prevention of cruelty to animals. The moot question is why to keep the animals in Zoos at all?

You want to study about wildlife? Go and learn about it in their natural habitat. These animals will show their natural traits only in their natural surroundings. If you keep them in the Zoo for study purposes, please keep in mind that your observations will be totally distorted.

You talk big about liberty. Liberty is a two-way traffic. You need to respect the liberty of others, before you talk of enjoying your own liberty. Displacing animals from their natural habitat and keeping them captivated in the Zoo is most inhuman. This disturbs the order of Nature. You are doing no service either to wildlife or to humanity by displacing them from their roots.

How can we have laws like ‘Prevention of Cruelty to Animals’ on the one hand and captivated animals in Zoos on the other hand?

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Necessary for Saving Them

Keeping animals in zoos is not unethical. It becomes unethical when the animals are deprived from proper facilities and are not maintained well. Sometimes keeping an animal in zoo becomes necessary to save it from extinction and the animal thrives there comfortably.

Shayan Ghani

Patna, Bihar

For Entertainment & Earning

An emphatic NO. We do not feel pity for slaughtering them when we need proteins. We are not kind to them while we play polo or some other adventure sports. We are not ashamed of killing the defenceless animals for making medicines from their body parts. And we do have every right to kill them in the name of religion. So, what is unethical if we put them in zoos for doing some business? We should rather be grateful to zoos at least on two counts: for giving us entertainment and helping some families earn their livelihood.

Partha Sarkar

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No Proper Treatment

Yes, keeping animals in zoos is unethical. These animals are captured so that they can be used to entertain the human society. Zoos and other botanical gardens usually become picnic spots. Animals are captured and kept in cages. These animals are being denied their normal lives. They are often kept hungry so that they can make noise and attract people. They are not given proper environment to live their own

life. It is becoming a common culture of every state, to make a big and huge zoo where animals are not given proper treatment.

Prafullit B Saxena

Sahibabad, Ghaziabad

Free The Animals

I totally agree with the fact that keeping animals in zoo is unethical. Unlike human beings animals take birth in the natural environment and grow up in the lap of nature observing various natural phenomena thereby learning the rules of survival. If they are kept in a zoo, which is only a slight of copy of their natural environment, probably they will not show their natural behavior. A Cheetah can run at a very fast speed but we can't see it doing so in a cell of 100 sqft that is fenced all around. Lion is the king of forest, but his king-like behavior is not observable in a zoo. Basically, in a zoo the free movement of animal is restricted, consequently they lose their natural behavior that makes them what they are.

A zoo is mere showcase of animals, which is like nature's beauty has been captured in cages, just for amusement. One can see these helpless creatures. However we cannot interact with them and can never understand their social and personal life. Preserving these animals is necessary but why in a zoo? Why not in a sanctuary, which is probably closest to their home. Let's break the boundaries of the zoos and their fences, let's free them from cages and give these incredible creatures the best present that we can give – freedom.

Mritunjay Mishra

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Free Them to Strengthen Gene Pool

Zoos are ex situ conservation sites but these are not definitely the abode for the animals. It is seen that most of the animals in the zoos are highly stressed due



to many factors like unavailability of adequate amount of food, lack of proper space, lack of proper maintenance etc. Most of the exotic species are either kept alone where as in some place species population pressure is too much in a particular cage. It cannot be denied that zookeepers are not well trained to handle all animals in very scientific manners. It is very true that a specific demographic and climatic condition of a particular area cannot be an ideal habitat for most animals. Moreover, overcrowding by visitors and their unruly behaviour like teasing, mimicking etc makes animals frightened. Each and every animal should be free to live its own life in its own natural habitat. This will make their gene pool stronger.

Dr. Biswajit Kumar Acharjee

K V Dimapur, Nagaland

Spacious Enclosures

Zoo is a place where the fauna is conserved, protected and displayed for public knowledge. According to the rules set up by the government, the animals and birds are to be kept in spacious enclosures with the conditions therein simulating

Point Counterpoint

their natural habitats. If the zoos are set up according to these conditions, keeping animals in zoos is not unethical as they are protected from extinction.

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Make Zoos Ethical

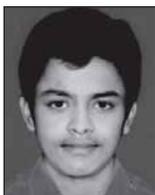
We all know that keeping animals in zoos is unethical but very few people raise their voice against it. Zoos are becoming very popular in every part of world. Many types of animals are kept in zoos for displaying to public. But zoos are not good for animals. Animals in the zoo miss their natural habitat.

The only way of making zoos ethical is to only keep endangered species in it for sometime for breeding and after that they should be released into wildlife sanctuaries and national parks. It is the necessity and need of time to awake and put in efforts to maintain ecological balance.

Parth Mahajan
Nurpur

Freedom is Important

Of course, keeping animals in zoos is unethical. Freedom is very important for all human beings, then why animals are



kept in cages? They should have their own habitat so that they can reproduce and survive easily in the zoos. Just imagine, if a man is kept in a locked house with all facilities only for a week, he can't live there because he needs freedom. Then, why animals are kept in cages, they also need freedom.

Abhijeet Anand
Patna, Bihar

Nothing Unethical!

On the face of it, keeping animals in zoos may sound unethical as animals are deprived of their



freedom and natural life style. However, to think realistically, there is nothing unethical about it as long as animals are provided with sufficient space and proper food. When killing thousands of cows, pigs, chickens etc. to protect ourselves from epidemics is not unethical, how can just keeping animals away from their habitat but with all possible facilities become unethical? In fact, animal's safety and health are well assured in the zoo as most of the zoos are staffed with qualified professionals. The zoo brings animals closer to man and there is no better way to appreciate the charm of wild animals, as every one cannot become a wild life photographer and venture into forests. One more advantage of keeping animals in zoos is that it helps to protect some endangered species, which otherwise would face the threat of extinction in their natural habitats. Considering these factors, I strongly feel there is nothing unethical in keeping animals in zoo provided they are given due care.

Dr. P. Venkata Rami Reddy
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Unethical & Cruel

Zoos in my perspective are totally unethical and cruel. If we look at an animal, whether it's a cat or a dolphin, it has the same qualities as humans. They have a heart, a brain, and thoughts. If we were animals and had no way to speak up for our self, how would we feel? All day these animals are supposed to eat and sit, locked behind bars watching people watch them. Cages are



unpleasant as they snatch and steal the freedom of these creatures. For example, polar bears are given 30 feet of walking space, whereas in the Arctic they could roam freely for hundreds of miles. It is not justified to remove them from their home and family. Zoos are just another word for animal prison.

Kuldeep Singh, Etawah, U.P.

Zoo: An Absurd Idea

Zoo is a concrete jungle made to accommodate animals in cages where people visit these animals to know about their habitats. But isn't it foolish to remove an animal from its natural habitat, put it in cages and then try to know about its habitat, its hunting and living habits. It is just like shifting an Eskimo from his home to a desert and then trying to know about his fishing skills. Also, humans are not put in cages unless they commit a crime. But the person who himself has done a crime by putting these animals in the cages is roaming freely outside, visiting these animals often. The idea of putting animals in cages in zoos is not only unethical, but useless, absurd and a sheer wastage of money also.

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Let Them Nautrally

It is often said: "Wild animals are beauteous in the forests, as the babies are on their mothers' laps." What for then, are they kept in cages? Is it for displaying the supremacy of humans? If intellect is the father of supremacy, conscience should be the mother. Where is the



application of conscience then, in confining the innocent animals? How would it be, if those who indulge in such practices are kept in cages likewise. Nature is ethically meant for the welfare of all species and not for Humans only. It also cannot be denied today that the human race emerged from the animals through a continuous process of evolution.

Animals in zoos are, in fact, being prevented from naturally roaming, hunting, mating and many more activities. Think how many crimes are committed in our human society when these activities are denied. One, therefore, can't encroach on other species' rights. Accordingly, keeping the animals in zoos is extremely unethical. Let them live naturally.

Anil Kr De, Hooghly (W.B.)

For their Own Good

It is wrong to think that keeping animals in zoos is unethical. Sometimes for their own good, protection or for breeding of endangered species zoos and rescue centers serve a definite purpose. One of the advantages of zoo confinement is that school-going kids get immense experience and understanding of the behaviour of exotic breeds. The authorities on their part, should strive to provide natural environment to the zoo-denizens. Zoos and sanctuaries can be a good source of revenue for the state/centre and the earnings can be ploughed back for the well-being of the zoo-inmates.

Dr Shiv Kumar
Jaipur



Extinction or Ethics?

The animal kingdom is an epitome of the grandeur and majesty of our planet. At first glance, keeping an animal in a zoo may seem unethical, even inhumane. However, one needs to make a clear distinction between reality and morality. In light of the current trends of deforestation, consequent habitat loss and overall loss of biodiversity, zoos offer a viable format of ex-situ conservation. Not only do zoos provide a safe haven for endangered species, giving them a shot at renewed life and growth, but also serve as excellent platforms for interaction between naturalists and species. Thus, by gaining an insight into the various nuances of an animal's life we can cater to its needs better and opt for a comprehensive conservationist approach. Of course, on the other side of the spectrum one can argue that by delocalizing an animal it is stifled and is subject to sudden changes in behavioral patterns. Moreover, the unwarranted attention of the visitors only adds fuel to the fire. However, we must realize that zoos also attune the general public to nature, sensitizing them and creating awareness and impetus for conservation. Here it's not a question of ethics rather it's a battle between life and extinction of the wild.

Shayer Majumdar
Chandigarh

For Their Care & Comfort

From earlier times till today, people and other rich fellowmen have been hunting wild animals for their valuable skin, teeth and other materials. Taking away all the animals from the forests may be a wrong thing because its original habitat may be lost. For example, one can take the example of Bandipur forests in Karnataka. In the year 2003, the number of tigers was only 58, but by this time probably it would have become the least. On observing all these facts how is it possible to say that keeping animals in zoos becomes unethical? When animals are facing the danger of extinction it would be right to go against the ethical values. When the zoos are providing so much of care and comfort it would probably be the right way of conserving the endangered animals.

Prathibha Raghavan
Mysore, Karnataka

Information for Humans

On earth, dominated by us human beings, it has become natural for animals to face trouble. Though animals are being protected in zoos mainly for the greater interest of the people, there are necessary provisions for the well being of animals in zoos. Zoos provide safety, food and space for the animals. Also the rare and endangered species are well preserved in zoos. Breeding is also done preventing the rare species from being extinct. Zoos also make people aware of the importance of animals by providing information and make people realise that animals are really assets of a state or country. So it would not be

proper to state that keeping animals in zoos is unethical, provided the animals are not being ill treated in zoos.

Niva Brahma
Guwahati, Assam

Denying the Right to Live

It is true that zoos are for conservation of biodiversity where animals are thought to be safe. But it is quite unethical. Because zoos contain much smaller areas and they can't provide the animals the free and natural lives that they have in forests. Zoos are nothing but artificial museums of animals and we claim that there we provide them a natural atmosphere and thus conserve them. But our claim is hundred percent false and it is surely unethical. By doing this we are denying the animals their right to live. Instead, we should develop the national parks and reserved forests in our country thereby giving the animals a fearless natural life under our guidance.

Dhritiman Kakati
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Sanctuaries Better Than Zoos

Yes, I absolutely agree with the above proposition. Animals would be healthy in their natural surroundings joyfully playing and preying on their natural preys. There numbers would get multiplied in their natural surroundings such as forests. They can be best kept in wild life sanctuaries like National Parks. For example, Kaziranga National Park and Jim Corbett National Park.

To confine them to a limited space like Zoos would be against ethics and against the general well being of

endangered species like tigers, some rare birds and reptiles. If we don't want them to be extinct and want to provide them with a healthy environment, wild life sanctuaries like national parks are better than Zoos. We don't want to be caged like wild animals in Zoos. Isn't it? The same rule applies to wild animals. It is highly unethical to cage or confine them in Zoos, which make the animals mentally and physically disturbed making them susceptible to several diseases and affecting their mating and breeding habits thereby diminishing their numbers leading to extinction. Due to destruction of their natural habitats by humans, recently some wild animals like panthers preyed on humans in Maharashtra's border villages including some suburbs of Mumbai.

Ms. Nirmala P. Rao
Hyderabad

Maintain the Zoos

Zoos are both necessary and unnecessary for many reasons. Zoos are necessary for protection and conservation of many species. Many species are



already extinct, some are on the way to becoming extinct. So, zoos can educate the public about the importance of wildlife. But zoos are not being kept properly, they are made to starve, they do not reproduce because they are not living in their natural habitats. So zoos should be well maintained.

Samarпита Pradhan
Keonjhar, Orissa

Now write in your thoughts on this topic for inclusion in the forthcoming issues:

“Sports should be made compulsory in schools.”

Be brief and be logical! Send in your photo, if you like.