1. Read through the pros and cons of keeping animals in zoos.
2. Take notes in the box, try to sum-up what each paragraph is saying.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Do Zoos Help or Harm Animals**

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When people visit the Zoo, they are not only witnessing living and breathing animals for entertainment purposes, but also learn a lot of valuable information too. Modern zoos often provide tours, information points and actively seek to educate and teach the next generation of children the importance and value of conservation and biodiversity. Of course, individuals and children can read about animals and conservation in books, but actively engaging with animals allows them to truly empathize with their plight.

Perhaps, it’s a little obvious, but Zoo’s offer a safe haven for endangered animals to live and on many occasions thrive. This is of paramount importance for some of the world’s most threatened animal species and allows leading experts and researchers to discover their habits, breeding patterns and as a result learn how human’s can help them survive, breed and therefore increase their dwindling numbers.

As well as offering a safe haven for some of the world’s most majestic creatures, Zoo’s are also local and sometimes national attractions. This means that Zoo’s are often a magnet for families, school trips and other individuals wanting to spend their time and money in the local area. This doesn’t just benefit the Zoo itself, but it also benefits local businesses, creating jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Zoos don’t just work independently to help animals they home and rescue. They also work in harmony with other Zoo’s throughout the world, as well as Safari parks, in order to organize breeding programs for some of the world’s rarest animals. This is very important for animals that are currently threatened in their natural habitats, but it is absolutely essential for animals on the verge of extinction.

Zoo’s typically had on-site medical and care facilities for all animals on site. This means that if they experience any health concerns, they can be assisted by vets almost immediately. This is extremely important for some of the world’s rarest animals, whose own survival and the survival of their offspring is vital. As well as providing breeding programs, animals can be regularly assessed for parasites, infectious diseases, and cancers.

Many wild animals have evolved to thrive in a certain environment, habitat, and climate and not suited to the confines and containment of captivity. Unfortunately, even though Zoos often try their best to mimic a specific species natural habitat sometimes it has little impact on their behavior and well being.

Although one of the main aims of zoos is to have successful breeding programs for some of the world’s rarest animals, the resulting offspring doesn’t always result in successful integration in the wild. Many animals born and raised in captivity fail to successfully make the transition from captive to wild environment, meaning that sometimes there is no choice but to keep them in the Zoo for the remainder of their lives.

In recent years, it’s become apparent that many popular zoos have been failing financially, which in turn has a knock on effect to the health and welfare of captive animals. Staff shortages and limited budgets often mean healthy animals have to be euthanized or sold to other Zoo’s.

Some animals are just not built for Zoo’s, particularly animal species with certain behaviors that Zoo’s don’t cater for, such as hibernation and migratory animals. For instance, Elephants are often the biggest animals within Zoo’s and many argue their enclosures are simply too small and since they have to resist their natural instinct to migrate; this can result in behavioral issues such as aggression.

Sometimes the measures Zoo’s take in an attempt to mimic a natural habitat just doesn’t work. A natural habitat is also related to climate, so some animals can develop problems in some locations that can get relatively cold in comparison to their natural habitat.

*Retrieved from:* [*https://animalmentor.com/wild-life/pros-cons-zoos/*](https://animalmentor.com/wild-life/pros-cons-zoos/)

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