

A visit to the zoo is a fun, educational day out for families.

Animals are fed and well looked after. If they require healthcare receive assistance they are seen by vets.

Endangered animals can be placed in breeding programs to try and raise numbers. They may be reintroduced into the wild.

Animal enclosures are as designed to be as close to natural habitats as possible. They are also designed to stimulate animals and stop them becoming bored. For example, ropes to swing on for monkeys.

Strict procedures are followed to acquire new animals; they cannot just be taken from the wild.

Zookeepers have knowledge about the animals they work with, this means that they can look after them appropriately and give them activities to keep them occupied.

Scientists can get close to animals to observe and research them. This information may be used to help the species in the wild or to avoid extinction.

Many zoos teach people about animals and how we can prevent their extinction. This is done through talks and through signs displayed around the enclosures.

Admission tickets and gift shop sales raise money that in turn is used to look after the animals.

People may not be able to travel to an animal's natural habitat to see them. For example, if you wanted to learn about penguins you may not be able to travel to Antarctica.

Zoos have limited space and so animals are kept in spaces that are smaller than the space they'd have in the wild. For example, elephants can walk 50km in a day; they may not have this much space in captivity.

Animals are not allowed to be taken from the wild, this means that animals in zoos have lived there for their whole lives; they have never experienced their natural habitats.

Many animals that are kept in zoos are not endangered.

Animals in zoos may be lonely, as large numbers of them cannot be kept. For example, elephants normally live in packs of 30 - 40 but this number could not be kept in captivity together.

Animals in captivity can develop irregular behaviours, this is known as zoochosis. Examples of behaviours of animals with this condition include: rocking/swaying, pacing/circling, over grooming/self-harm.

Some people believe that it is unfair for animals to be used for human entertainment.

Animals, including babies, can be transferred to different zoos meaning that they are taken away from their families.

The weather in outdoor enclosures may not reflect that of where the animals come from.

Animals behave differently in captivity to the way that they would in the wild, this means that scientists are not able to observe an animal's normal behaviour.

Carnivores are fed meat; they do not get to hunt their prey.