



# Why Zoos Stink More than the New Star Wars

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Imagine if you spent your entire life trapped behind bars, with a limited amount of food each day, and little space to move. Unfortunately, that is the reality for millions of animals around the world, who, like any creature, are made to move freely, not be held in a fixed area with people creepily staring at them. Zoos should be banned because they contribute to animal cruelty.

Zoos are the opposite of beneficial for animals, as they would thrive more in their natural habitat instead of an enclosure. An example of this is the lifeline of elephants in their natural habitat compared to ones in zoos. Elephants in zoos live 39 years less than those in the wild.

Opponents of banning zoos believe that zoos contribute substantially to scientific knowledge by researching animals living at the zoo. This argument is flawed because seldom do zoos actually finance research that may benefit their animal residents; the majority of zoos have neither the intention nor the initiative to carry out research.

Research conducted at a few zoos is not necessarily always vital, and can often also be misleading. For example, zoo animals make unreliable subjects for behavioural research. Their living conditions are unnatural and many zoo animals are mentally deranged with a case of zoochosis, where their mind becomes ill and they begin pacing back and forth, sometimes even afflicting self-harm. To simplify, Imagine if you spent your entire life trapped behind bars, with a limited amount of food each day, and little space to move. Unfortunately, that is the reality for millions of animals around the world, who, like any creature, are made to move freely, not be held in a fixed area with people creepily staring at them. Zoos should be banned because they contribute to animal cruelty.

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