



Change Will Only Come for These Animals When People Stop Supporting Zoos

The Supreme Court has begun to intervene in behalf of animals in zoos and has ordered that no new zoos be built without the court's approval.

Please help, and get others to help, too. It takes only a few hours to make a big difference. You can help by meeting with or petitioning your state minister of the environment and forests and your city's municipal authorities for specific improvements to the conditions for the animals housed there and urging them to adopt a "no new animals" policy for your local zoo.

One of the most far-reaching things you can do to help captive animals is to urge your friends and family to boycott zoos and other animal attractions.

Write a letter to your local newspaper, city officials and the state's Tourism Department, voicing your objections to such cruel exhibits. Ask for their intervention and support in getting zoos improved or dismantled.



"Our zoos are still in the Dark Ages. Admitting an animal into an Indian zoo is like passing its death sentence."

**– Iqbal Malik,
animal rights activist
and environmentalist**

For more information on how you can help animals in zoos, contact:

PETA

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals India
PO Box 28260, Juhu, Mumbai 400 049
(022) 2628-1880
(022) 2628-1883 (fax)
PETAIndia@peta.org



**ZOOS:
DEATHTRAPS,
NOT SANCTUARIES**

Despite a professed interest in animal welfare, zoos remain only sad collections of living "exhibits" rather than havens for animals or even remotely natural habitats. Zoos teach people that it is acceptable to keep animals confined and helpless in captivity, bored, cramped, lonely, unable to engage in natural behaviours and far from their homes and families.

PETA

Pitiful Prisons

Spend 24 hours locked in a one room with no privacy and nothing to do to pass the time and you will get a small taste of what an animal endures for his or her entire life in a zoo. There are no spacious, naturalistic habitats. Rarely are there structures for the monkeys to climb on or shade trees or pools for the big cats – much less room to run and play.

Continuous confinement, in many cases inadequate diets (some operators actually depend on visitors to feed the animals) and the stress of exposure to noisy children and rough treatment by adults are physically and psychologically harmful.

Some animals rage against their confinement and frantically claw at the bars, while others withdraw or hurt themselves. More than 60 per cent of the animals in zoos have marks on



their heads because of continuously banging their heads against the bar. Others have hair loss from self-mutilation.

A recent study by British scientists concluded what we already know to be common sense: that widely roaming animals, such as bears and big cats, suffer enormously in captivity, and it recommends that these animals be phased out of zoos altogether.



India has 64 large zoos and 194 medium-sized zoos. About 10 to 15 per cent of animals kept in these prisons die every year – most die well before their time.

Zoos try to justify their continued existence on the grounds that they breed endangered species yet not one tiger has ever been reintroduced into the wild. The way to protect endangered species is to buy land, hire wardens to prevent poaching, and protect natural habitat. Moreover, the laws mandate standards of care that are inadequate given what we know about animals in the 21st century. If the resources spent on subsidising the zoo were instead put into protecting animals in the wild, it would produce much more successful and humane results.



Common Sightings at Zoos

- No water for the animals in their enclosures
- Elephants chained throughout the day by two or more legs, usually exhibiting stereotypic behaviour (swaying, chain-clanging, etc.) as a result of constant confinement
- Leopards, lions and tigers either confined to small cages inside their enclosures or pacing to and fro endlessly in their enclosures because of boredom and stress
- Bears confined to small concrete enclosures with no rock structures or vegetation in their enclosures exhibiting extreme psychological illness, such as head-bobbing and bar-sucking



- Visitors teasing, mocking and feeding polythene, paper and other rubbish to the animals with no security guards to stop them
- Dry water pools and dirty moats filled with filth and garbage
- Overcrowded enclosures, leaving little space for each animal, and single animals in enclosures isolated from others of their own species for the rest of their lives
- Filthy, waste-covered enclosures with little to no protection from the heat, cold and rain

By law, cages need only be large enough for the animals to stand up, lie down and turn around in!