“Zoos: Myth and Reality”

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| A | Three benefits zoos say they offer* Wildlife conservation
* Public education
* Animal welfare

But instead – * Claim – Most zoos fail to live up to their own propaganda, and vast numbers of zoo animals continue to live lives of misery ad derivation.
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| B | Opinion* The record on reintroductions to the wild is dismal
* The contribution of zoos in this regard has been animal
* Contribution involves supplementing the wild population with captive born individuals

Fact* Only 16 species have established self-sustaining populations in the wild as a result of captive breeding efforts
* Most of the 16 were the result of government wildlife agencies – not zoos
* Contribution involves supplementing the wild population with ***a small number*** captive born individuals who are ***ill-prepared for life in the wild***
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| C | Counter-argument to the idea that zoos educate and motivate the public* There is little empirical evidence that the animal in the cage actually teaches anyone anything
* The legions of conservationists that the zoos say they have produced have not materialized
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| D | Support for the idea that animals suffer mentally, physically, and emotionally –* The principle has been widely espoused by the modern zoo community in various articles, books, and television documentaries.
* **Unconvincing** – too general, no specific, respected source given or quoted
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| E | The author opposes the idea that zoo animal housing has improved and benefits animals.Sentences that express this - * But many of the advances in zoo animal housing are superficial and provide little benefit to the animals
* These exhibits are made for the public and dupe them into believing things are getting better.
* What they really achieve is deprivation and misery.
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| F | If Laidlaw has disproved that accredited zoos actually offer public education, wildlife conservation, and animal welfare, * Then the 90% that are not even accredited must be even worse!
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| G | **Has he proven that the present state of zoos is untenable?****Unsure?*** Not successfully captive breeding –
	+ Says only 16 species have established self-sustaining populations, but how many tried?
* Says there is no proof that a caged animal teaches the public anything – couldn’t no proof just mean no research?
* Environments provided damage animals mentally, physically, emotionally (worse behind scenes) –
	+ polar bear exhibit description – like a movie set
	+ off-display facilities look like prisons
	+ size of displays is hardly larger than in years past

**Has he proven that zoos need to voluntarily** * Adopt humane policies and practices
* Push for the closure of substandard facilities
* Advocate for laws to protect wildlife

**Yes** – Proven with the following - * description of observed conditions in substandard roadside zoos
* Description of use of “surplus” animals in canned hunts
* statistics on the number of licensed facilities that do not meet industry standards
* examples of facilities for bear and wolves that extensive range of natural movement and behavior
* example of Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust that is a leader in conservation education and wildlife protection
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Article “Zoos Connect Us to the Natural World”

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| H | One reason for having zoos in title –* Zoos connect us with the natural world.
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| I | Point Hutchins is making* The little gorilla in the news was not the norm.
* Zoos have had real success nurturing the animals they care for.
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| J | Support for statement that zoos have had some very real successes nurturing animalsGives the example of the care of gorillas* Large, naturalistic exhibits
* Appropriate social groupings
* Nutritionally appropriate diet
* Excellent veterinary care

Results* Behavior similar to that in the wild
* Reproduce consistently
* Live longer on average than do in the wild
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| K | Opposing viewpoint presented -* Zoos and aquariums exploit animals for profit.

Counter argument to this viewpoint given by author –* Zoo veterinarians work long hours for comparatively little pay
* Animals keeper weep over loss of favorite animal and spend own money to attend training programs to improve their knowledge and skils
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| L | What kinds of zoos and aquariums does author say should be supported?* “Good” zoos and aquariums

Is his argument broad enough to support this conclusion?* Yes.
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**Comprehension**

1. What does “Zoos: Myth and Reality” say happens to surplus animals?
* Surplus animals end up in the hands of private collectors, animal auctions, circuses and novelty acts, substandard zoos, and “canned hunt” operations where they are shot as trophies.
1. According to “Zoos Connect Us to the Natural World,” how do zoos benefit people?
* They are learning organizations that offer people who could not afford exotic travel the chance to learn from personal experience.
1. What kind of action does each author call for?
* “Zoos: Myth and Reality” -
* “Zoos Connect Us to the Natural World” – supporting good zoos

**Text Analysis**

For each selection, identify the claim, three reasons author uses to support the claim, and conclusion.

Then judge whether conclusion has been supported.

**“Zoos: Myth and Reality”**

Claim –

* Most zoos do not live up to their claims of providing wildlife conservation, animal welfare, and public education, and instead the animals in the zoos live lives of misery and deprivation.

Reason

* Zoos do not make real contributions to conservation. – Only a tiny percentage of zoos worldwide actually allocate enough resources to participate in captive propagation initiatives or provide real support for wildlife or their habitat.

Reason

* There is no evidence that the caged animal actually teaches anyone anything.

Reason

* Animals are treated inhumanely in zoos living in under-sized impoverished enclosures that do not meet their biological or behavioral needs, with less than 10% of zoos in the United States even meeting industry standards.

Conclusion about what zoos should do and how people should treat them –

* Zoos must voluntarily adopt humane policies and practices, push for the closure of substandard facilities, and advocate for laws to help wildlife.

Supported?

* Yes

**“Zoos Connect Us to the Natural World”**

Claim –

* Our nation’s best zoos have had very real successes nurturing their animals and should be supported.

Reason

* Animal welfare and care in zoos has been revolutionized by recent advances in design, nutrition, genetic management, and veterinary medicine and are run by trained professionals.

Reason

* They are learning organizations that offer people who could not afford exotic travel the chance to learn from personal experience.

Reason

* Science, conservation, and education are part of the core mission of zoos, and so their animals are the ambassadors of their wild counterparts.

Conclusion about what zoos should do and how people should treat them –

* “Good” zoos should be supported.

Supported?

* Yes