**Should animals be kept in zoos?**

Most of us have visited a zoo, yet how many of us have seriously considered the **rights** of the animals who are held in such **environments**? As more and more living creatures are being placed in **captivity**, it becomes **vitally** important that we discuss whether zoos are the best place to keep animals safe.

Some **environmentalists** have argued that zoos are essential for several reasons. Most importantly, they say that zoos educate people to protect animals that may otherwise become **endangered**. Seeing animals first hand, they claim, is the only way people can truly **appreciate** how beautiful they are. In addition, zoos help prevent animals from becoming **extinct** by offering them a safe place to live and **breed**. Furthermore, there are many rules in place to **prevent** animals from being **mistreated** or harmed in zoos.

Many people disagree, arguing that we do not have a right to **capture** any animal even if they are hurt or facing extinction. First of all, they point to the fact that some zoos don’t have the right space or equipment to care for the animals properly. This could lead to the **inhabitants** becoming bored, ill or **depressed**. Although **breeding** can help save **endangered** **species**, they explain, it could also result in too many babies to care for. Moreover, animals who grow up in a zoo lack the skills they need to survive in the wild. **Consequently**, these animals will never get the opportunity to enjoy their **natural** **habitat**.

Having considered the arguments from both sides, it becomes clear that a well-run zoo is key to the survival of different **species** of animal. While it is **essential** that zoos follow the rules to make sure they care for their animals properly, shutting down all zoos would only put endangered animals at risk of extinction. It is therefore vital that zoos are able to continue the good work that they already do.

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| Sentence signpost | introduces another’s opinion |
| Cause and effect | introduces a new idea or argument |
| Point of View | allows exceptions to a rule |
| Generaliser | makes the verb more powerful |
| Adverb | introduces a possible result or consequence |