

ZOO CHECK



This Zoo Checker Feedback form should be used to record all your observations and thoughts during your visit, or after your visit, to a zoo or other wild animal attractions.

It's helpful if we have photographic and video evidence. If you do have access to a camera, video recorder or smart phone, use it to record animals, enclosures, information posted, events and anything else that you feel is relevant. This will be extremely useful to help showcase the situation. But don't worry if you do not have a camera. Your help in whatever shape or form will be greatly appreciated.

After you fill in your notes on this form, you can then submit your information online at: www.bornfreeusa.org/zoocheck. Or you can email this form to info@bornfreeusa.org or mail to: Born Free USA/Zoo Check, P.O. Box 32160. Washington, DC 20007.

Please note that we prefer to maintain a full documentation file on each facility, so we will not return film/ photographs unless requested.

If you need more space to answer any of the questions on this form then please attach a separate piece of paper.

Born Free USA Zoo Checker Feedback

Your name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: (____) _____

Email: _____@_____

Are you a member of the Born Free USA? Yes ___ No ___

If NO, are you interested to learn more? Yes ___ No ___

We are always on the look out for members who regularly help us with our campaigns to save animals. Would you like to join our online eAlert Team? Yes ___ No ___ (please provide your email, above)

Have you visited a

___ zoo

___ aquarium

___ circus

___ photo opportunity

___ individual animal

___ other

Date of visit: _____

Name of the zoo / animal attraction: _____

City: _____

State/Province: _____

What was the reason for visiting the attraction? _____

On a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), how would you rate this attraction? _____

What was your general impression? _____

Did the animals look content? Yes ____ No ____

If NO, explain: _____

Which of the following animals did you see?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elephant | <input type="checkbox"/> Giraffe | <input type="checkbox"/> Polar Bear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Bears | <input type="checkbox"/> Lion | <input type="checkbox"/> Zebra |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tiger | <input type="checkbox"/> Birds | <input type="checkbox"/> Leopard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reptiles | <input type="checkbox"/> Rhino | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gorilla | <input type="checkbox"/> Monkeys | <input type="checkbox"/> Chimpanzee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Dolphin / Orca | <input type="checkbox"/> Sealion / Seal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panda | <input type="checkbox"/> Hippopotamus | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Did any of the animals appear to be unwell? Please give details: _____

Did you see staff members readily available to ask for help? Yes ____ No ____

Did you talk to the staff? Yes ____ No ____

Were they easy to talk to, were you satisfied with their answer and the information given?

Please explain: _____

Does the animal attraction offer other entertainment, i.e., shows, talks, amusements, etc.? Please describe:

If it was a talk, what information was shared about the animals? _____

Were there any informal educational facilities or formal educational programs? Describe: _____

Did you go to either the
_____ informal educational facilities _____ formal program

How would you rate them? Explain: _____

Were there signs outside each exhibit about the animals inside? Yes _____ No _____

If YES, please describe what was on them and whether they were informative: _____

Was there any contact between animals and the public (such as animal rides or petting zoos)?

Yes _____ No _____

If YES, please describe: _____

If there was animal contact, what did you think about the warnings and explanations about safety related to it?

Were there hand-washing facilities? Yes _____ No _____

These questions are more specifically for zoos:

Are you aware of their participation in any captive breeding programs? If so, what? Which species?

Does the zoo/attraction claim to participate in other conservation programs (such as habitat protection, anti-poaching efforts, etc.)? Please describe: _____

Did you feel the enclosures gave the animals enough space and stimulation? Yes ____ No ____

Was there anything that concerned you or that you are unsatisfied about? _____

Can you describe the enclosures, both indoors and outdoors? Was the ground dirt, cement, or something else? Was the barrier between you and the animal steel bars, wood fencing, or something else?

Abnormal Behavior:

You may have seen animals pacing back and forth, continually licking the bars, playing with or eating their own feces or even inflicting physical damage to themselves, known as self-mutilation. All these are examples of “stereotypic behavior,” abnormal behavior that has resulted from years of deprivation. Please answer the following considering carefully the animals which you saw. **If you are using this form before visiting a captive animal facility we recommend observing the animals for at least ten minutes at intervals throughout your visit and note down their behavior.** The abnormal behaviors described below may then become more easily recognized.

Pacing – continuous pacing back and forth.

Head-bobbing – moving the head continuously up and down.

Rocking / swaying – rolling motion from side to side.

Circling – walking round and round, often walking in the same footprints time and time again.

Neck-twisting – unnatural twisting of the neck.

Bar-biting / sucking – gnawing the bars.

Tongue-playing – continuous licking of the bars or wall.

Vomiting – vomiting and then eating the vomit.

Coprophagia – playing with or eating own feces.

Over-grooming – grooming or ‘hair plucking’ to excess – often have bald patches.

Self-mutilation or abuse – tail biting, leg chewing, head bashing, etc.

Note any of the behaviors seen:

Animal: _____

Total time observed (minutes) _____

Number of times observed _____

Observation _____

Animal: _____

Total time observed (minutes) _____

Number of times observed _____

Observation _____

Animal: _____

Total time observed (minutes) _____

Number of times observed _____

Observation _____

Animal: _____

Total time observed (minutes) _____

Number of times observed _____

Observation _____

Animal: _____

Total time observed (minutes) _____

Number of times observed _____

Observation _____

Animal: _____

Total time observed (minutes) _____

Number of times observed _____

Observation _____

If you have taken photographs or video footage please send files to Born Free USA/Zoo Check
info@bornfreeusa.org

I am sending you:

____ Photographs

____ Video footage

____ Leaflets

* A reminder that Born Free USA does not return film/photographs unless requested.

What do you know about the future of this facility? Are expansions or renovations planned?

Would you be willing to file a formal complaint with the appropriate authorities about the conditions of the animals at this facility? We will help you through every step of the process.

Yes ____ No ____

If NO, would you be happy with Born Free USA filing such a complaint on your behalf? Yes ____ No ____

Additional Comments: _____

Thank you for your time in filling in this form. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Please return to:

Born Free USA / Zoo Check
P.O. Box 32160
Washington, DC 20007

Or submit online form at www.bornfreeusa.org/zoocheck