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You are invited to share your story or the story of a veteran close to you! We want to hear about your military service, accomplishments, families, transition to civilian life, and your life as a veteran. Send us your stories and photos to be shown as a daily veteran tribute in November as part of Veterans Month celebrations! The VA has partnered with specialized contract experts to resume in-person Compensation and Pension (C/P) exams related to disability benefits in their designated contract facilities (rather than to VA medical facilities). Visit benefits.va.gov/cpexam for regular updates. Home EligibilityTo Loans qualify for a VA guaranteed mortgage, there are certain eligibility requirements for service members, veterans, spouses and other eligible beneficiaries. Read more Due to ongoing problems with COVID-19, the VBA Pittsburgh Regional Office will be closed to the public starting March 19, 2020. The Pittsburgh RO is also suspending participation in chi--community events. VBA benefits and services will continue to be provided throughout the COVID-19 exposure period. Please check our website for future updates. Virtual/Telephone Meetings Meet a Representative from the Pittsburgh VA Regional Office from the comfort of your home! To schedule a meeting to meet virtually with a representative from the Pittsburgh VA Regional Office by video conferencing or by phone, email PCU.VBAPIT@VA.GOV. Appointments are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Day: Pick Friday 2 October 2020 October 16 2020 October 30 2020 November 13 2020 December 11 2020 Time: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Location: Butler W. A. Medical Center (Report Lobby; Offices for Telebenefits site are to the left of the main lobby area with VAMC social workers) Details: Veterans can meet with a representative from the Pittsburgh VA Regional via video conferencing Expected Audience: All Veterans External Link Denial: Clicking on the links above, you leave the Department of Veterans Affairs website. The VA does not endorse or be responsible for the content of related websites. Craigslist Calling all animal lovers! If you've ever dreamed of having more pets (a lot more), the opportunity for life just popped up on Craigslist. The Emerald Coast Reserve in Crestview, Florida, needs a new owner, and it could be you. This content is imported from Facebook. You can find the same content in a different format, or you may be able to find more information on your website. Ten acres, in a well-maintained, USDA Compatible zoo. Under-the-key operations with more than 90 happy and healthy animals including a white tiger, a Bengal tiger, Lion, Patas monkeys, bob cats, baboons, wolves, otters, black bear, fennex fox, sloth, lemurs, llamas and more, says Craigslist zoo ad. Great business business For those who love animals. Welcome to 2017, where you can literally buy a zoo on the Internet. For just \$350,000, you'll get staff from professional animal protectors, an operating gift shop, storage facilities, barns, and more than 90 animals. The sanctuary took over the zoo in 2013, renamed it the Emerald Coast Reserve zoological park, and dramatically improved the area and habitat after it had previously fallen into a state of deplorable condition. This content is imported from Facebook. You can find the same content in a different format, or you may be able to find more information on your website. Bill Andersen, president and chairman of the shelter's board of directors, said NWFDailyNews.com while rescuing the animals was initially in line with their mission, continuing to manage the zoo is not. However, he said he thinks the zoo is now in the best shape it's ever had. If this sounds like your dream job, you can respond to the ad here. (h/t Travel and Recreation) This content is created and maintained by a third party and is imported to this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content on the piano.io Remi BENALIGetty Images Steel City has an almost incomprehensible number of bridges. The same goes for the number of world-class museums. While it's tempting to think of Andy Warhol's birthplace as a hot spot rising from the ashes, the city has long been thriving in the art and design scene. Here are six places where design lovers can see this story for themselves. Advertising - Continue reading below 1 Tour andy Warhol Museum Andy couldn't wait to get out of Pittsburgh, but the smoky city he found hellish remembers him fondly. Tributes to Warhol's colors are painted on twloted windows throughout the city, and the Andy Warhol Museum's seven-story thoughtful exhibits display its many eras, influences and aftermath. Don't leave the museum without collecting souvenirs in the gift shop or sneaking down into the basement to the vintage photo booth - just like the ones Warhol used to shoot his famous series of portraits. 2 Watch the show at Heinz Hall The Grand Lobby concert hall of the 1920s, which shines in a 24-carat gold leaf, crystal chandeliers and silk drapery in the French style of The Court. With an atypical rust belt style, Heinz Hall is home to the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. The group is great at talent and less at the stuffiness. Catch them for a show with nouveueva themes like the soundtrack of zelda or Brahms in Da Haus. 3 Visit the Mattress Factory, founded by Barbara Luderowski as a community of artists in a mattress warehouse on Pittsburgh's North Side, mattress factory turned into a museum of contemporary art, scattered across three His experimental laboratory has a site of specific installations created by international artists in residences, residences, like Dennis Maher's second house, which splits, intertwines, and collages house physical and metaphysical colleagues on three floors of an ordinary house owned by the museum. 4 Shop on Butler Street Take your business on Butler Street in up-and-coming Lawrenceville to weave in and out of the city's vintage furniture stores, craft shops, and gastropubs. Two highlights include retro fashion finds at WHO NEW? And midcentury goods at the Pittsburgh Furniture Company. 5 Party at the Carnegie Museum of Art Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, CMOA is the oldest North American contemporary art exhibition from around the world. He also throws a damn good game. Visit during one of their third Thursdays and sip on local brews while dancing in a sculpture court or viewing a massive collection of decorative arts. Or, keep the poses until morning and visit for yoga and live classical music pairing. 6 Stay and Eat at the Ace Hotel Housed in the former YMCA, this outpost of the Ace Hotel is the first fully developed by the company in the home of atelier Ace's creative team. The firm sources textiles, furniture and more from local artisans, and the hotel's restaurant serves up the reigning pasta of the Eastern European city: cheesy, fluffy pies. Photo Charles Teenie Harris, who chronicled Pittsburgh's African-American population from the 1930s to the 70s, lined the hotel's main stairwell. The hotel is part of a wave of development (or gentrification) in the Eastern Liberty area of the city, which was once one of America's most prosperous black business sectors. Stay for the weekend when the hotel's events serve up local flavor through a drag-cute area or a pop-up of vintage and craft vendors in a restored gymnasium. Just please don't leave Pittsburgh comparisons with Brooklyn. This is not true and the locals really hate it when yinz say that. This content is created and supported by a third party and is imported to this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content on piano.io Advertising - Continue reading below the high-profile death of gorilla Harambe, who was shot dead in 2016 at a Cincinnati zoo after a boy fell into his enclosure, sparked a mass protest and talk that so far one of the most hotly contested debates involving animal welfare. Just last weekend, activists showed up at the Bronx zoo to demand the release of the Happy Elephant, chanting in unison that Happy is not happy. Indeed, the idea that keeping animals in captivity is morally acceptable has long been questioned by those who claim that zoos encroach on animal freedom. In recent years, increased research on the ethics of captivity has helped the erroneous notion that critics of zoos just just animals they say they are trying to help. But not everyone agrees. Robin Ganzert, CEO of American Humane, recently wrote an essay in USA Today, arguing that zoos protect animals and restore endangered species, even as some activists seek to dismantle these arks of hope. She's right? Should animal advocates and conservationists rally around zoos? (Photo: Donna Ley/ Unplash) No, if we think of the animals themselves. Beasts in zoos all day swarmed with crowds of people, many of whom are constantly flashing cameras in their faces, knocking on glass and fences and making loud or startling sounds. This anxiety is causing and scary for most animals, but can be particularly disturbing for animals that are nocturnal. In an interview with Slate, science historian and TED colleague Laurel Breitman argues that there is no denying that zoos are for humans in the first place, not for animals. Then there is the question of zoos seeking to preserve genetic diversity, while having limited opportunities. One of the two controversial tactics is used in pursuit of this goal. The first - commonly practiced in U.S. zoos - is contraception (birth control in the form of tablets, IUDs and vasectomies). But the use of contraception carries medical risks. Big cats with hormonal implants may be more susceptible to tumors, and elephants sometimes have difficulty restarting the reproductive cycle when they are removed from the contraceptives. Many people, such as Bengt Holst, director of conservation at Copenhagen zoo, also claim that it is inhumane, saying: We would prefer them to have as natural behavior as possible. We've already taken away their predatory and anti-panic behavior. If we take away their parental behavior, they don't have much left. In Europe, for example, instead of sterilizing these animals, they are often allowed to breed and raise their young. Some of the offspring are then taken from their parents and transferred to other zoos to avoid inbreeding. But it still leaves some children missing. This excess is considered by the second option: euthanasia. In 2014, the executive director of the European Association of zoos and aquariums estimated that between 3,000 and 5,000 animals were strewn in European zoos in any given year. Indeed, in 2014, Copenhagen zoo received worldwide condemnation for killing a young giraffe and feeding his body to another zoo animal, simply because it was unnecessary from the zoo's breeding program. The zoo later killed four lions - two adults and two young females - to give way to a new four-year-old male. (Photo: Kasper Rasmussen/Unsplash) Keeping animals in captivity also perpetuates the idea that it is acceptable to deprive them of natural freedoms in the name of our own interests. In most cases, then, we keep wild animals in captivity, captive, different from how we interact with typical companion animals, such as dogs and cats, where there is a much more reciprocal relationship, suffered over thousands of years of joint evolution between humans and the animals we have domesticated. (While in exceptional cases a small number of species, including some birds, fish and rodents, may comfortably live as companion animals, there is no doubt that the captivity of the zoo, where the line between wild and domesticated is often blurred, is generally harmful to these species.) Many countries around the world embrace the concept of five freedoms, internationally accepted standards of care, stipulating that animals in captivity must be free from fear and suffering, hunger and thirst, heat and physical discomfort, pain, trauma and disease, and that they should be free to express their natural patterns of behaviour. While most zoos try to alleviate this, there is widespread disagreement over whether any zoo setting can actually meet these principles. If you have ever visited a zoo, you may have noticed how some animals, especially wild cats, tend to walk back and forth in their cages. According to zoologists, it is believed that such repetitive behavior (known as stereotypes) is an attempt to cope with unsmling or small enclosures. They are often seen engaging in this behavior before feeding time, as if they are preparing for a food hunt that often just gets dropped right in front of them. And it's not just boredom that animals in captivity are prone to experience. It has been proven that animals can develop mental illness in the same way as humans, and a growing body of research is uncovering how captivity increases the risks of these diseases. Concrete and confined spaces are known to cause depression and phobia in many animals, and one study found that chimpanzees in captivity were significantly more likely to exhibit signs of compromised mental health - such as hair plucking, self-tasting and self-torture - compared to their wild counterparts, despite enrichment efforts. Loneliness also has a serious impact on captive animals. Researchers found that African grey parrots, who lived alone, suffered more genetic damage than those placed with a companion. This damage often takes the form of shortened telomere-caps at the ends of chromosomes that worsen with age or stress. In fact, many solo gray parrots were telomeres as short as birds 23 years older. Photo: Waldemar Brandt/Unsplash Research has even found that elephants suffer from serious health problems and die much younger in captivity. Scientists explain this by the lack of exercise (their enclosures are often hundreds of times smaller than their habitats wild) and high levels of stress from transmission between zoos and separated from their mothers. For these and others According to a recent YouGov poll, a notable 25% of all American adults report that they are more against zoos today than 10 years ago. However, nearly half of the country says their views on zoos have not changed. Supporters of zoos have several arguments for keeping animals in captivity. Animals in captivity know nothing better, some zoo supporters claim, so they may not be unhappy. It's a tough argument to buy, though. Wild animals have evolved over thousands of years to adapt to life in nature; it is hard to imagine that living in unnatural environments that do not have sufficient stimulation will not cause distress. The case is similar to animals that are captured from the wild to put in zoos, it is difficult to argue that these animals do not suffer from severely limited habitat. The London zoo, for example, states on its website that it justifies the presence of each of its animals, within the categories of conservation, research and/or education. However, it is further noted that in some special circumstances we get animals from the wild. (Photo: Tinh Khuong/Unsplash) As our attention increasingly turns to climate change and the threat of extinction facing many species-including species of turtles, gorillas, orangutans, rhinos, leopards, tigers, and elephants-it's no wonder that people like Humane America's Robin Ganzert hope zoos will save at-risk animals. Indeed, education around conservation has long been another major excuse for zoos. But one 2014 study found that only 34% of children surveyed before and after an unruly visit to the zoo reported having a positive learning experience, while about 15% learned incorrect information. Ask a dozen zoo directors why these places should exist today, and you'll get a different answer each time, writes Justin Worland in exploring the future of zoos in time. Education, conservation, and science all come up. But the most common answer is to cultivate empathy for animals, while providing humane care for these animals. Worland argues that children leave zoos, effectively underestimating the problem of endangered animals. After reviewing a study by the Association of zoos and aquariums (ASA), which claimed that zoos are educational, researchers from Emory University found that the article exaggerated its findings, and concluded that there is no evidence to support the argument that zoos contribute to a change in attitude, education or interest in conservation. To be fair, zoos play a role in conservation efforts. Using breeding programs, zoos can help a number of species, the conservation of genetic biodiversity and the return of endangered species to the wild. When the Arabian Oaks was hunted to extinction in the 1970s, the Phoenix zoo helped more than 200 calves out of nine antelopes in the wild. Since then, the population has grown to about 1,000. Similar successes have been seen since the reintroduction of black-footed ferrets and the California condor. In addition, animals in zoos are often the preferred source for researchers, hoping to learn more about how we can best save endangered species and restore and restore ecosystems. This is because zoo animals are more accessible to study, and there are fewer variables that can affect the results. But even these advantages can not justify zoos in general. For example, only a fifth of animals at the Smithsonian's National zoological park in Washington, D.C., are threatened with extinction or endangered. In addition, when species are released back into the wild, they are often disadvantaged by the behavior they have learned in captivity, which can make them much more susceptible to dangers in the wild. THE ASA reported that of all the animals in the 228 accredited zoos, there are only 30 species at the center of specific programs designed to save them from extinction, most of which cannot be restored in the wild. (Lori Marino, a psychobiologist and executive director of the Kimmel Center for Animal Welfare, told Outside: There has never been an elephant in American zoos that has returned from the zoo to the wild... It's a one-way ticket.) To make matters worse, habitats in the wild are disappearing at an unprecedented rate. Without proper conservation work, animals that are part of breeding programmes cannot be effectively restored in the wild. Defenders of the zoo also note that many zoos contribute large sums of money to conservation projects in the wild. But in relation to the amount of their total income, it is simply not true. One study found that conservation investment from North American zoos was less than 5% of their income, and according to another source, in many zoos, only 1% of the budget goes to conservation efforts. However, this amount is not insignificant, and as anthropologist Barbara J. King pointed out to NPR, funding is a key and difficult issue in rethinking zoos. However, a critical study of the shortcomings with the current system is a necessary first step towards identifying plausible (alternative) funding solutions. King emphasizes that with a small vision, good conservation projects can be disconnected from traditional zoos. Just because a few good zoos exist doesn't mean that the concept of zoos is acceptable in a general sense. And these good zoos certainly do not justify the existence of those where animals suffer from stress and mental health problems or where their enclosures are so from the environment they have evolved to live in that the benefits of conservation and education are negated. The fact is that all zoos perpetuate perpetuated that people should have unquestioning domination over these animals. Alternatives already exist that can help in the pursuit of conservation efforts without questions the welfare of zoos. One such alternative is animal sanctuaries. The main difference between the zoo and the reserve is that the latter does not breed animals; rather, they rescue them from places where they cannot be properly cared for. There's also a difference in how many animals are exposed to members of the public. For example, Adam Roberts, president of the Global Federation of Animal Reserves (GFAS), said their sanctuaries do not allow public contact with big cats. As a rule, sanctuaries are often open and managed by people devoted to the welfare of animals. They exist for animals in the first place, with their main purpose being to create an environment where animals that need rescue can have their care and their interests prioritized. (Photo: Anastasia Dulgier/Unsplash) It is important to note that, like zoos, sanctuaries certainly have some differences in the level of animal care. But while there are some so-called sanctuaries that actually exploit wild animals, there is no reason to reject them as a solution. We must close these poorly functioning operations and better allocate resources to ensure that those that remain open are of the highest quality. The educational vacuum left by zoos can be filled by sanctuaries that are inhabited exclusively by rescued animals that enjoy human contact, which can include horses, donkeys, rabbits, goats, pigs and cows. These sanctuaries could provide children with controlled animal exposure through animal welfare tours. In fact, there are already examples of animal sanctuaries that work for both humans and animals. The Farm Sanctuary in Watkins Glen, New York, for example, cares for animals that have escaped abuse on farms and abattoirs and auctions, and they have a hospital to treat sick and injured animals. Although a little more speculative, virtual zoos are another possible destination. Prince Khaled bin Alwaleed, an entrepreneur, vegetarian and member of the Saudi royal family, last year helped launch National Geographic's Encounter: Ocean Odyssey in New York, culminating in the burying of manats, humpback whales and stingrays. (As in zoos, aquariums suggest that it is permissible to restrict animals - not only mammals and birds, but also aquatic animals such as fish that experience conscious pain - for human pleasure. The popularity and success of the project in New York is encouraging. This proves there are creative solutions for zoos that the public public Enjoy. Why not use technology to educate the public about animals without animals having to pay the price? Many zoos and staff they hire do their best to ensure that the animals are properly cared for. But even the best zoos can't expect animals to thrive in captivity. Educating the public and helping to save animals from extinction are complex problems, and they require good faith solutions that give priority to the well-being of all those involved. Brian Katman is the co-founder and president of the Reducetarian Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to reducing meat, egg and dairy consumption to create a healthy, sustainable and compassionate world. Brian is the editor of The Reducetarian Cookbook Group, September 18, 2018, and The Reducetarian Solution (Penguin Random House: April 18, 2017). He holds a master's degree in conservation biology from Columbia University. University. pittsburgh zoo map pdf. pittsburgh zoo map 2019. printable pittsburgh zoo map. pittsburgh zoo directions mapquest. pittsburgh zoo and aquarium map. google maps pittsburgh zoo. pittsburgh zoo 5k map

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