

## IELTS Writing Task 2 Lesson #17

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

**Some people think that keeping animals in zoos is cruel to the animals, while others believe that zoos keep many animal species alive that would otherwise be extinct.**

**Explain both sides of this argument and give your opinion.**

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

### **SAMPLE ANSWER**

There are thousands of zoos around the world which house millions of animals worldwide. Many people think that keeping animals in a cage is cruel and unnatural, but others argue that zoos protect animals and that without zoos, many of the animals that are housed in them would be in danger of dying out. I believe that zoos are necessary to protect animals that would otherwise have no remaining natural habitat and would therefore be endangered or extinct.

In the past, it has often been considered cruel to confine wild animals to small cages purely for the amusement and curiosity of human beings. Many people believe that wild animals should be allowed to roam free in their natural habitat and to hunt their natural prey. I also believe this would be ideal, but unfortunately, due to humankind's prolific population of the Earth, many animals' natural habitats have been destroyed and many wild animals' prey are no longer sufficient in number to sustain them. Cities, towns and industry have taken over land which was once home to a variety of different species.

Therefore, I agree with the sentiment that zoos have become necessary to protect and sustain many species which would have little or no chance of survival in the wild. For example, the panda bear of China is an endangered species which has been successfully bred in zoos, thus helping to keep the species alive. Similarly, tigers have grown in numbers since living in zoos and many animals today have been bred in captivity, and know nothing else. Ideally, the manmade habitat of the zoo animals should replicate their natural habitat as much as possible. Often, panda bear pens in zoos have bamboo available, so they can feed on their favorite food as they would in the wild.

In conclusion, because many wild animals' natural habitats have been destroyed by humans, we can do our best to make their manmade environments in zoos as spacious and natural as possible, so that many endangered species can survive.