

# Increasing Legal Rights for Zoo Animals

In the United States, animals generally do not have legal standing. They are considered property, which means they can be bought, sold, and traded like any other commodity. This lack of legal protection leaves animals vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Zoo animals are particularly vulnerable because they are often confined to small spaces and subjected to unnatural conditions.



## Increasing Legal Rights for Zoo Animals: Justice on the

**Ark** by Dorothy Vandekamp

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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Print length : 238 pages  
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While zoos claim to provide a safe and enriching environment for animals, the reality is that many animals suffer in captivity. According to the Humane Society of the United States, more than 100,000 animals die in U.S. zoos each year. These animals often die from preventable causes, such as malnutrition, disease, and stress.

In addition to the physical suffering they endure, zoo animals also suffer from psychological distress. They are often separated from their families

and friends, and they are forced to live in unnatural environments that do not meet their needs. This can lead to a variety of behavioral problems, such as pacing, self-mutilation, and aggression.

The lack of legal protection for zoo animals is a serious problem that needs to be addressed. Animals are sentient beings who deserve to be treated with respect and compassion. They should not be subjected to abuse and exploitation simply because they are not human.

There are a number of things that can be done to increase legal rights for zoo animals. One important step is to pass laws that recognize animals as legal persons. This would give animals the right to sue for their own protection and would make it illegal to abuse or exploit them.

Another important step is to increase public awareness about the plight of zoo animals. Many people are simply unaware of the suffering that goes on behind the scenes at zoos. By educating the public about this issue, we can help to create a demand for change.

Finally, we need to support organizations that are working to protect zoo animals. These organizations are fighting for the rights of animals in courtrooms and legislatures, and they are providing care and sanctuary for animals who have been rescued from zoos.

By taking these steps, we can help to create a more just and compassionate world for zoo animals.

## **What You Can Do to Help**

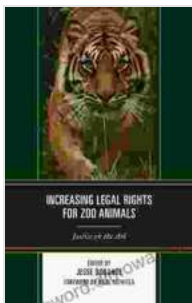
- Contact your elected representatives and urge them to support laws that recognize animals as legal persons.
- Educate your friends and family about the plight of zoo animals.
- Support organizations that are working to protect zoo animals.
- Visit accredited zoos and sanctuaries that provide a high quality of care for animals.

## Recommended Reading

- Wild Justice: The Moral Case for Animal Rights by Marc Bekoff
- The Animal Welfare Act: A Fifty Year History by Gail A. Golab
- Zoo Animals: The Problem with Zoos by the Animal Legal Defense Fund

## Image Credits

- Lion in zoo by Pexels
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