

# Mobile Zoos

Quaker Concern for Animals *briefing*



## Don't be a party to animal suffering



Photo courtesy of mobilezoo.org.uk

The mobile petting zoo industry is growing. Each year more and more companies are visiting schools, youth groups, local fairs and private parties, in order to satisfy children's natural curiosity about other creatures.

However, *Quaker Concern for Animals* is worried that such events are the cause of much suffering for the animals who are inappropriately handled, passed from person to person and forced to perform in the name of our entertainment.

- \* **Poorly regulated** and not subject to mandatory inspection
- \* **Run by inexperienced and untrained individuals** often with poor understanding of animal welfare standards.
- \* **Supported by an unscrupulous trade in wild animals** where living beings are mass produced for profit
- \* **Stressful for the animals**, who are subject to over stimulating and frightening environments, denied the freedom to fulfil their natural needs, and forced to travel long distances in small cages.
- \* **Treat animals as exhibits**, rather than as sentient, sensitive individuals.
- \* **Miseducate the public** by displaying creatures in an alien environment. The stress and isolation of captivity means that many creatures show neurotic, abnormal or self-harming behaviour.
- \* **A health risk to humans** from injuries such as scratches or bites and transmission of disease e.g. salmonella and e-coli

*Quaker Concern for Animals* is asking individual Friends and meetings to consider the exploitation of animals in the name of entertainment.

There are a number of ways in which you can help to stop the exploitation of animals in mobile petting zoos:

*Quaker Concern for Animals* recognises the preciousness of each unique life and we try to express this through the actions of our daily lives.

The promptings of love and truth in our hearts has opened our eyes to the great sufferings of other species.

We witness to the divine in creation and the equality of all creatures.

- ✓ **Encourage** parents, schools and youth workers to organise trips to places where young people can safely experience wild animals in their natural habitats
- ✓ **Organise a demonstration** to raise awareness about the cruelty behind many mobile zoos
- ✓ **Refuse to participate** in any event where a mobile zoo has been invited.
- ✓ **Lobby your MP** calling for the introduction of industry specific regulations and mandatory inspections.
- ✓ **Write to local schools and youth groups** urging them not to make mobile zoos a part of their activities behaviour.

Visit [mobilezoo.org.uk](http://mobilezoo.org.uk) for further information and more suggestions for alternative activities to mobile petting zoos.



Photo courtesy of Jo-Anne McArthur / We Animals

Membership of *Quaker Concern for Animals* is open to persons of any faith or of none. To find out more, please visit our website



[quaker-animals.co.uk](http://quaker-animals.co.uk)

You can also find us on social media



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