

Your Voice In Europe: ROADMAP feedback for REFIT of the Zoos Directive

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Related document: REFIT of the Zoos Directive

Feedback:

The Zoo Licensing Act in the UK is not working. The wording of the Act rather than being explicit has significant grey areas and these grey areas allow a large (considerably more than the registered licensed zoos) number of collections mainly of birds of prey to be utilised with the general public with little or no legislation. Not only does this lead to cruelty issues, bad practices, potential danger to the public and a drain on important species of endangered animals and birds. It also creates an un-level playing field for those who have become licensed under the ZLA.

There are upwards of 200 centres/groups/individuals in the UK who are exposing birds of prey and other animals to poor practices, keeping them in unacceptable manners, taking them into schools, putting them in shopping malls unprotected from the public and generally exploiting wildlife because of an Act that is not good enough or defined enough.

The zoo inspectors for those specialist centres who are licensed are not experienced enough to do valid inspections and opinions are unbalanced and lack specific education enough to be able to do a good job.

I have tried to speak to the UK minister in charge of zoos to no avail, I have also pushed for at least three years, the Zoos Expert Group to move on this increasingly large movement of the use of wildlife and the public, again to no avail. I run the oldest dedicated bird of prey centre in the world. We lead the world in the captive breeding field and have a reputation second to none in the scientific raptor world as well as being greatly instrumental in the saving of vultures in South Asia. I would appreciate having the opportunity to have a voice on this topic.

Jemima Parry-Jones