

Experiencing animals | Conserving biodiversity

### Vision

We inspire our visitors by providing unique wildlife experiences and we conserve biodiversity.

### Mission

The Association of Zoological Gardens (VdZ) is the leading association of scientifically managed zoological gardens in German-speaking countries.

Our social mandate is to conserve biodiversity. We strive to achieve this task by keeping and breeding endangered animal species, by supporting conservation projects for nature, species and the environment, by animal welfare projects, by educating people on sustainable development, by carrying out research and by creating nature related recreational spaces.

We are offering competent advice in all zoo and wildlife related topics to support political and administrative decision-makers and other social groups. We inspire our visitors and inform the public and media on the widely diverse tasks and activities of zoos. We form partnerships and networks with those who pursue similar goals.

Our member zoos stand out as valuable recreational and cultural institutions with a high level of socio-political and touristic relevance. Based on the latest scientific insights, practical experience and the guidelines of international professional zoo associations, we set high standards for animal husbandry in our zoos.

We are an independent, charitable and professional association, and our work is based upon national and international conventions and laws.

We act in a transparent, responsible, value-based and highly ethical manner.

#### Legal information:

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Verband der Zoologischen Gärten e.V.

[www.vdz-zoos.org](http://www.vdz-zoos.org)





... unites 71 scientifically managed zoos in 4 countries (DE, AT, CH, ES).  
 ... was founded in 1887 and is the oldest zoo association in the world.  
 ... paved the way for the establishment of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).



In 2019, VdZ zoos recorded  
**45.3 million visits.**

177,000 people are involved in regional »Friends of the zoo« -groups.

VdZ zoos provide  
**6,000 jobs.**

They also indirectly create 2,400 further jobs as well as 780 seasonal jobs in the catering and service sectors.



VdZ zoos invest in the ongoing development of animal enclosures and animal welfare:



Every year, VdZ zoos invest staff time, expertise and in-kind donations as well as nearly € 8 million in 170 national and international  
**nature and species conservation projects** in 61 countries.

In order to conserve endangered species, VdZ zoos run 106 international breeding programmes.

From 2018 to 2019, 3,072 animals from 46 species were released into the wild.



VdZ zoos preserve 7 of the 22 vertebrate species that are already extinct in the wild according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

VdZ zoos display  
**biological diversity**  
 in a unique way.

Almost 200,000 vertebrates live in VdZ zoos.

On average, every VdZ zoo keeps:

- 44 mammal species
- 49 bird species
- 20 reptile species
- 5 amphibian species
- 28 fish species
- 12 invertebrate species
- 13 livestock species



Nearly **3,300 sick or injured wild animals**

are cared for each year and, wherever possible, released back into the wild.



**88%**  
 of all VdZ zoos have a  
**zoo school.**

Every year, 1.2 million zoo visitors participate in 171,000 special educational programmes.

Between 2008 and 2018,

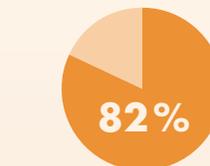
**1,056 scientific studies**

were carried out and published with the help of VdZ zoos.



Some 200 further publications appear each year.

A representative **Forsa survey** in Germany indicated the following:



**82%**  
 of Germans are  
**in favour of zoos.**



**93%**  
 of Germans regard it  
 as (very) important  
 that zoos **conserve threatened species.**



**80%**  
 of Germans believe that zoos  
**care for wild animals in a responsible way.**