

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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VdZ

Verband der Zoologischen Gärten e.V.

www.vdz-zoos.org





... unites 71 scientifically managed zoos in 4 countries (DE, AT, CH, ES).
 ... was founded in 1887 and is the worlds' oldest zoo association.
 ... is the nucleus of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

86%

of all VdZ zoos are members of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA).

63%

are members of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

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VdZ zoos support the Species Survival Commissions of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



VdZ zoos record **40 million** visitors each year.



171,000 people are members of "Friends of the zoo" groups. 4,5 million people own an annual ticket for a VdZ zoo.

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



Additionally, 2,400 indirect workplaces are created as well as 780 seasonal jobs in service sectors. 13,000 regional and supra-regional companies benefit through orders commissioned by VdZ zoos. 90% of all VdZ zoos offer vocational training.

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



Every year, VdZ zoos support national and international **nature and species conservation projects** through their staff, exchange of expertise and materials and furthermore a contribution of **more than 4 million Euro.**

In order to conserve endangered species, VdZ zoos run 114 international breeding programmes. In 2016, 350 animals from 28 endangered species were released into the wild.



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

VdZ zoos are actively committed to animal welfare:
 19 VdZ zoos operate wildlife release centres.
 2 VdZ zoos run the local animal shelter.

183,000 vertebrates live in VdZ zoos.



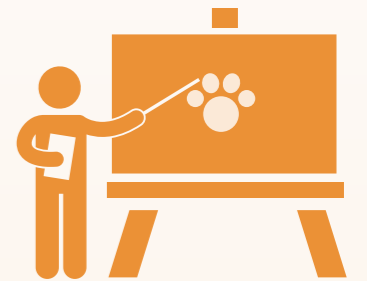
On average, every VdZ zoo keeps:

- 52** mammal species
- 54** bird species
- 22** reptile species
- 4** amphibian species
- 34** fish species
- 12** invertebrate species



86% of all VdZ zoos have a **zoo school.**

There are 864 employees working in the educational departments of VdZ zoos. Every year, 1,1 million visitors profit from educational programmes offered by the zoo schools, join guided tours or listen to lectures.



Every year, VdZ zoos are involved in the publication of more than **200 scientific studies** relating to zoology or conservation topics.



VdZ zoos provide **1,826 hectares** of recreational nature areas in urban settings.

This equals the size of 2,557 soccer pitches.