

A STUDY ON THE WELFARE OF THE ANIMALS IN ZOO NEGARA

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The students/authors confirm that the work submitted is their own and that appropriate credit has been given where reference has been made to the work of others.

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ABSTRACT

In recent times, there have been many complaints made regarding the welfare of zoo animals by both the public and NGO's upon Zoo Negara. This forms the basis of the research in the light of animal suffering, standards of a zoo and the adequacies of the legislation and execution of laws. This paper sets out to examine the sufficiency of local laws and its enforcement in protecting the welfare of the animals of Zoo Negara as the national zoo of Malaysia.

The primary legislation that provides for wildlife in Malaysia is the Protection of Wildlife Act 1972 which is only applicable in West Malaysia, which applies to the targeted area of research, Zoo Negara. Loopholes or shortcomings of the said Act are found throughout the research and has been affirmed by most of the people interviewed for the purpose of this paper.

However, problems may surface as to the matter of jurisdiction or limitations of power to compel or take legal action on established zoos. Where rulings based on the old legislation may have been efficient in earlier days, it would be absurd to say the same for its implications 30 years down the road.

At the time of research however, the writers were pleased to hear that the Act is soon to be revised. It has been said that the title in itself could be altered, with what is believed to be additional provisions and amendments supplying to a wider scope of laws. Therefore, it may be rightfully presumed that the current Protection of Wildlife Act is questionable and rather ineffective in its content and enforcement in providing protection of welfare for the zoo animals in Zoo Negara.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgement	ii
Abstract	iv
Contents	v
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Problem Statement	3
1.2 Research Objectives	4
1.3 Literature Review	4
1.4 Research Methodology	11
1.5 Research Scope and Limitation	12
1.6 Significance of the Study	12
1.7 Provisional Plan of Research	13
CHAPTER TWO: AN OVERVIEW OF ZOO NEGARA AND THE WELFARE OF ZOO ANIMALS	
2.0 Introduction	15
2.1 History of the Establishment of Zoo Negara	16
2.2 The Current Management of Zoo Negara	19
2.3 Factors of Inefficient Management of Welfare of Animals in Zoo Negara	21
2.3.1 Legal Protection	21

2.3.2	Funding	22
2.3.3	Facilities	23
2.3.3.1	Zoochosis	23
2.4	Conclusion	27

CHAPTER THREE: LEGAL FRAMEWORK

3.0	Introduction	28
3.1	The Protection of Wildlife Act 1972 (Act76)	28
3.2	Local Government Act 1976	34
3.3	Guidelines of Zoology Park	35
3.3.1	Guidelines created by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN) and Malaysian Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria (MAZPA)	35
3.5	International Legal Framework	37
3.5.1	The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	37
3.6	Conclusion	39