This Zoo Checker Feedback form should be used to record all your observations and thoughts during your visit, or after your visit, to a zoo or other wild animal attractions.

For our campaign, we hope to use photographic and film evidence. If you do have access to a camera or a video camera its use, to record animals, enclosures, information available, events and anything else that you feel is relevant will be extremely useful to us. But don’t worry if you do not have a camera. Your help in whatever shape or form will be greatly appreciated.

After you fill in your notes, you can submit your information online at www.api4animals.org/a1b_zoocheck.php

Please send all information and developed film to Zoo Check at Born Free USA united with API. Please note that we prefer to maintain a full documentation file on each facility, so we will not return film/photographs unless requested. If however, you would like the material returned, we would welcome a small donation to cover costs of copying and return postage. Thank you.

If you need more space to answer any of the questions on this form then please attach a separate piece of paper.

Zoo Checker Feedback

Your name: ________________________________________________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________________________________________
Telephone number: (_____) ___________________________________________________________________
Email: ______________________________________@__________________________________________
Are you a member of the Born Free USA united with API? Yes ____ No ____
If NO, are you interested to learn more? Yes ____ No ____
We are always on the look out for “activist members” (these are people who regularly help us with our campaigns). Would you like to join our Action Alert Team? Yes ____ No ____

Have you visited a
____ zoo  ____ aquarium  ____ circus
____ photo opportunity  ____ individual animal  ____ other

Date of visit: _______________________________________________________________________________

Name of the zoo / animal attraction: _______________________________________________________________
City: ______________________________________________________________________________________
State/Province: _____________________________________________________________________________
What was the reason for visiting the attraction?____________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
On a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), how would you rate this attraction? ______________________________
What was your general impression? ______________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
Did the animals look content? Yes ____ No ____
If NO, explain:______________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
Which of the following animals did you see?
____ Elephant  ____ Giraffe  ____ Polar Bear
____ Other Bears  ____ Lion  ____ Zebra
____ Tiger  ____ Birds  ____ Leopard
____ Reptiles  ____ Rhino  ____ Fish
____ Gorilla  ____ Monkeys  ____ Chimpanzee
____ Domestic animals  ____ Dolphin / Orca  ____ Sealion / Seal
____ Panda  ____ Hippopotamus  ____ Other
Did any of the animals appear to be unwell? Please give details: ______________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
Did you see staff members readily available to ask for help? Yes ____ No ____
Did you talk to the staff? Yes ____ No ____
Were they easy to talk to, were you satisfied with their answer and the information given?
Please explain:______________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
Does the animal attraction offer other entertainment, i.e., shows, talks, amusements, etc.? Please describe:
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
If it was a talk, what information was shared about the animals?
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

Were there any informal educational facilities or formal educational programs? Describe: ________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

Did you go to either the
_____ informal educational facilities  _____ formal program

How would you rate them? Explain: ________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

Were there signs outside each exhibit about the animals inside? Yes ____ No ____

If YES, please describe what was on them and whether they were informative: ________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

Was there any contact between animals and the public (such as animal rides or petting zoos)?
Yes ____ No ____

If YES, please describe: ________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

If there was animal contact, what did you think about the warnings and explanations about safety related to it?
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

Were there hand-washing facilities? Yes ____ No ____
These questions are more specifically for zoos:

Are you aware of their participation in any captive breeding programs? If so, what? Which species?

__________________________________________________________________________________________  
__________________________________________________________________________________________  
__________________________________________________________________________________________  

Does the zoo/attraction claim to participate in other conservation programs (such as habitat protection, anti-poaching efforts, etc.)? Please describe: __________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Did you feel the enclosures gave the animals enough space and stimulation? Yes ____ No ____

Was there anything that concerned you or that you are unsatisfied about? _______________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

Can you describe the enclosures, both indoors and outdoors? Was the ground dirt, cement, or something else? Was the barrier between you and the animal steel bars, wood fencing, or something else?

__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

Abnormal Behavior:

You may have seen animals pacing back and forth, continually licking the bars, playing with or eating their own feces or even inflicting physical damage to themselves, known as self-mutilation. All these are examples of “stereotypic behavior,” abnormal behavior that has resulted from years of deprivation. Please answer the following considering carefully the animals which you saw. **If you are using this form before visiting a captive animal facility we recommend observing the animals for at least ten minutes at intervals throughout your visit and note down their behavior.** The abnormal behaviors described below may then become more easily recognized.
Pacing – continuous pacing back and forth.
Head-bobbing – moving the head continuously up and down.
Rocking / swaying – rolling motion from side to side.
Circling – walking round and round, often walking in the same footprints time and time again.
Neck-twisting – unnatural twisting of the neck.
Bar-biting / sucking – gnawing the bars.
Tongue-playing – continuous licking of the bars or wall.
Vomiting – vomiting and then eating the vomit.
Coprophagia – playing with or eating own feces.
Over-grooming – grooming or ‘hair plucking’ to excess – often have bald patches.
Self-mutilation or abuse – tail biting, leg chewing, head bashing, etc.

Note any of the behaviors seen:

Animal: ___________________________________________________________________________________
Total time observed (minutes) _________________________________________________________________
Number of times observed ____________________________________________________________________
Observation ________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

Animal: ___________________________________________________________________________________
Total time observed (minutes) _________________________________________________________________
Number of times observed ____________________________________________________________________
Observation ________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

Animal: ___________________________________________________________________________________
Total time observed (minutes) _________________________________________________________________
Number of times observed ____________________________________________________________________
Observation ________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
Animal: ___________________________________________________________________________________
Total time observed (minutes) __________________________________________________________________
Number of times observed ______________________________________________________________________
Observation ____________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

Animal: ___________________________________________________________________________________
Total time observed (minutes) __________________________________________________________________
Number of times observed ______________________________________________________________________
Observation ____________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

Animal: ___________________________________________________________________________________
Total time observed (minutes) __________________________________________________________________
Number of times observed ______________________________________________________________________
Observation ____________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

If you have taken photographs or film footage please send them to us here at Zoo Check, Born Free USA united with API.
I am sending you:
____ Photographs       ____ Film footage       ____ Leaflets

* A reminder that Born Free USA united with API does not return film/photographs unless requested. We would welcome a small donation to cover costs if you require their return to cover costs of copying and return postage. Thank you.
What do you know about the future of this facility? Are expansions or renovations planned?
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
Would you be willing to file a formal complaint with the appropriate authorities about the conditions of the animals at this facility? We will help you through every step of the process.
Yes ____ No ____
If NO, would you be happy with Born Free USA united with API filing such a complaint on your behalf?
Yes ____ No ____
Additional Comments: _______________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
Thank you for your time in filling in this form. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Please return to:

Zoo Check
Born Free USA united with Animal Protection Institute
P.O. Box 32160
Washington, DC 20007