

**Research Activity Report**  
**Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”**

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<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Japan, Kyoto City Zoo
<b>2. Research project</b>
Animal Welfare Session: Do we need zoos?
<b>3. Date</b>
2017. 08. 28
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
Josue Alejandro Pastrana, KUPRI / Yumi Yamanashi, Kyoto City Zoo
<b>5. Progress and results of your research activity</b>
<p>This Animal Welfare Session was the first international session of its kind to be hosted at Kyoto City Zoo. The theme was “Do we need zoos in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?”. For this, we first watched “Zoo Revolution”, a 2013 CBC documentary, bringing on the controversial debate about the value of zoos nowadays. Rather than being one-sided, the film showed both sides of zoos, the pros and the cons, or how zoos may drastically differ in terms of education, animal welfare, conservation or science from one place to another. There are not much documentaries about this topic that are framed this way, which is why we previously used the same documentary in a Conserv’Session at PRI or in Fred Bercovitch’ Zoo Biology class to hear people’s opinion on the debate.</p> <p>After the documentary, Dr. Robert Shumaker, Vice President of Conservation and Life Sciences at Indianapolis Zoo and renown orangutan researcher, gave a talk on what zoos can achieve towards education, animal welfare, conservation, and science by giving examples of how Indianapolis Zoo is working on these. For example, the public visiting Indy Zoo can learn about orangutan cognitive abilities by interacting with them on a shared touch-panel, where kids and adults alike can play ping-pong, memory card game, or morpion solitaire, for example, with orangutans. At the same time, this shared-touch panel (developed by Dr. Chris Martin, previously at KUPRI) serves as cognitive enrichment to the orangutans. Last year when I visited, I have observed an orangutan persistently returning all the cards of the memory card game until he got the matched card, without even caring for food reward. Then, PWS student Josue Alejandro gave another talk about what most zoos have failed to achieve, particularly regarding animal welfare, giving examples by showing videos of marine mammals in captivity, or the conditions of solitary elephants in Japanese zoos, mentioning the previous efforts of Duncan Wilson (PWS student) to improve them at Yama-jigoku.</p> <p>Then, the last and most important part of that session was the group discussion at the end. We were divided into two groups of ~10 and randomly given 3 keywords we had to discuss between us before making a summary to everyone. Our group got “Education”, “Welfare” and “Conservation” and we discussed pros and cons, as well as perspectives regarding these. The outline of our group discussion was: 1. to require a greater commitment from zoos regarding donations to conservation funds; 2. to improve facilities to better meet the needs of certain species or alternatively refuse to host certain species known to not deal well with captive conditions (e.g. dolphins and</p>

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elephants); 3. to strengthen outreach and education at the zoo via Science, by building more connections between scientists, their findings, new technology and tools, and the public. The estimated number of zoo visitors worldwide is about 700 million per year. So, zoos are still big business, but more and more ethical issues regarding the role of zoos are raised and so, perhaps only facilities that can commit to the listed requirements above should be given the “zoo” accreditation. With this number of visitors and approach, zoos can have a real impact on education, welfare, conservation and beyond, which can be an asset to reach even more persons.

I think this was a successful event and I would like to congratulate Josue Alejandro, Yumi Yamanashi and Yoko Sakuraba for taking the lead to organize this session. The venue, Kyoto City Zoo Café, had a very nice atmosphere and the group discussion, although short, was constructive. I encourage further Animal Welfare Sessions to be hosted this way.

**1st Animal Welfare Session**  
**Do we need zoos?**  
**Challenges of zoos in future**  
 動物園のこれからの課題

*We will watch a documentary movie and discuss based on the movie with participants and the special guest.*

**Documentary to watch**  
**Zoo Revolution (2013)**  
 Zoo Revolution takes the viewer deep inside the increasingly controversial debate about the value of zoos in the 21st century. Are zoos an old-fashioned and outmoded way of displaying animals for entertainment - an idea whose time has come and passed? Or are zoos more important than ever before, at the vanguard of species survival and public education? Zoo Revolution presents experts and animal lovers on both sides of the argument in Canada, the UK, the USA, Germany and Australia. - written by David Price (Director) [http://www.indianapoliszoo.com/press/2013\\_08\\_28](http://www.indianapoliszoo.com/press/2013_08_28)

**Special guest**  
**Robert Shumaker**  
 As the Indianapolis Zoo's Executive Vice President and Zoo Director, Dr. Robert Shumaker has exceptional credentials, including 20 years' experience at the Indianapolis Institution's National Zoo (where he first encountered orangutans on a one-to-one basis) and later as Director of Orangutan Research at the Great Ape Trust in Des Moines, Iowa. He is recognized as one of the world's foremost experts in orineth behavior, including the cognitive abilities of the highly intelligent orangutan, and is a highly regarded lecturer.

**Aiming ねらい**  
 Modern zoos consider the core ethical challenges faced by people or organizations who choose to hold and display animals in zoos, aquariums, or sanctuaries. Zoos have the potential to be a great educational place, promote conservation awareness, and to prevent animals from going extinct. However, its impacts, including the costs of wild animals losing their "wild-liberty", daily visited by many people, and exhibiting less naturalistic behaviors by its confinements is still a challenge. What do you think is right? We would like to know your thoughts on this by inviting you to an open discussion at the Kyoto City Zoo Café. There is no wrong or right answer, but through discussion, we can potentially reach a better outcome for the animals we keep. Join students, professors, visitors and scientists alike in this exciting discussion!

**Date / Time 日時**  
**8/28**  
 (Monday月曜日)  
**17:30**  
 ~**19:30**  
 No fee  
 参加費  
 無料

**Place 場所**  
 Library Café in Kyoto City Zoo  
 京都市動物園 正堂エントランス 図書館カフェ  
 \*The venue is located near main entrance

**Special Guest スペシャルゲスト**  
**Robert Shumaker**  
 (Indianapolis Zoo インディアナポリス動物園)

**Seats 定員**  
**20 seats** (in order of arrival 先着順)

**Registration 申し込み方法**  
 Please send application including your name, email address, phone number (if you have) to the email address as follow.  
**animalwelfareku@gmail.com**  
 After receiving your application, we will reply to you.

**Host 企画・Contact お問い合わせ**  
 京都大学霊長類学・ワイルドライフサイエンス・リーディング大学院 (PWS)  
 京都市動物園生き物・学び・研究センター  
 Email: animalwelfareku@gmail.com

**Fig. 1: Event poster.** Organisers first screened Zoo Revolution, a 2013 documentary, talking about the current situation of zoos with pros and cons regarding animal welfare, public education, conservation, science, etc. After the film, Dr. Robert Shumaker, gave a talk on why zoos can be of significant importance regarding these issues and what they can do better to achieve them. Then, Josue showed concrete examples of animal welfare issues in captive facilities. At the end, organisers had prepared a group discussion by dividing the audience in two groups and assigning them with topics of reflexion such as education, welfare, etc.

**6. Others**

**Acknowledgements:** I would like to thank PWS for supporting this student initiative, and participants for their interest.