

Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/D1/L3
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1. Country/location of visit
Kyoto City Zoo, Kyoto Japan
2. Research project
“Do we need zoos?” A student led discussion on Animal Welfare aspects in the keeping of wild animals in zoos.
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2017. 08.28 (1 day)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Dr. Shumaker, Indianapolis Zoo, United States - Dr. Yamanashi and Dr. Tanaka, Kyoto City Zoo, Japan
5. Progress and results of your research/activity



Talk from Dr. Shumaker



Closing remarks from Dr. Tanaka

On Monday August 28th from 5:30-7:45 we had our first Animal Welfare Session, dedicated to the discussion of current ethical issues regarding the keeping of wild animals in zoos at the Kyoto City Zoo Cafe. This event was co-hosted by a student led initiative from the Primate & Wildlife Science program and researchers from the Kyoto City Zoo. As our guest speaker, we had the great opportunity to host Dr. Robert Shumaker from the Indianapolis Zoo who is the Indianapolis Zoo's Vice President of Conservation and Life Sciences, Dr. Robert Shumaker has over 20 years' experience at the Smithsonian 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 highly recognized as an expert in primate behavior, specifically in cognitive abilities of the highly intelligent orangutan, and is a highly regarded lecturer. Dr. Shumaker has written a number of scientific articles and scholarly books on primate behavior and cognition. He is currently on the faculty at Indiana University-Bloomington and is an affiliate of the Krasnow Institute at George Mason University. Along with being widely published, Dr. Shumaker has appeared in dozens of documentaries and programs airing on National Geographic, Animal Planet, Discovery Channel, the BBC and PBS. He is widely consulted on animal welfare issues. In his current position, Dr. Shumaker leads the Indianapolis Zoo's curatorial team in all aspects

of the management and care of the zoo's animal and plant collections.

The program started with the viewing of Zoo Revolution, a 45min documentary of the pros and cons of zoos, and if they serve any contributions to society such as education, conservation, and so on, or if they are institutions that lack the appropriate environments to house wild animals and the animals welfare aspects that arise from it. This was followed by a 15 min talk from Dr. Shumaker, which argued for keeping and needing zoos, and a 15min PWS student talk against zoos for mainly animal welfare concerns. After the talks, the 26 students, professors, researchers, and general public were divided into two discussion groups for 20min where everyone had the opportunity to talk on their stance on the pros and cons of zoos in education, conservation, animal welfare and research. In the end, the group leaders presented their main ideas and thoughts, finalizing from comments from Dr. Shumaker and Kyoto City Zoos' Dr. Tanaka.

We really enjoyed the activity as there were many people from various backgrounds, ages and were able to freely talk about their thoughts on such as sensitive subject that is animal welfare. We are very grateful for the Kyoto Zoo to host this event and the Primate & Wildlife Science Program for making this happen. As a PWS student, we are encouraged to take leadership in creating events and opportunities for discussion not only in conservation and research, but also on animal welfare. To my understanding and for those who attended, the event was a success and we hope to have many more in the future.


