

Narrative 13: Zoo animal ethics

The invitation to contribute to a 2015 lecture series at the University of Zurich on the perception of suffering in motion pictures, with the corresponding book contribution

Clauss (2018) Darstellung und Rezeption von Leiden bei Tieren: Genau hinschauen! In: Pezzoli-Oligati D, Mäder M-T, Fritz N, Scolari B (eds) *Leid-Bilder. Die Passionsgeschichte in der Kultur*. Schüren Verlag, Marburg, pp 133-151

led to the development of a teaching unit on the ethics of animal management that is part of my teaching portfolio in the context of zoo animal husbandry and animal domestication.

This led to an invited plenary lecture at the Joint Conference of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians and the European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians, Prague, Czech Republic, 2018 on *Captivity, liberation, conservation, the wild: rhetorics and the value of zoological institutions*

as well as to an

Invited contribution to the 2022 issue of the standard edited monograph series of zoo animal medicine

Clauss, Schiffmann (2022) Concepts of animal welfare in natural habitats and in zoos: meaning and anxiety. In: Miller et al. (eds) *Fowler's zoo and wild animal medicine Current therapy 10*. Elsevier, St. Louis MA, pp 255-260

In this line of thinking, I developed a lecture on the feeding methods for zoo carnivores that has led me to start exploring options of how to enhance zoo and domestic carnivore welfare by sophisticated feeding methods (ongoing).

Additionally, I developed a lecture on the ethics of feeding zoo-raised animals to zoo animals, participating in the debate on a 'breed & feed' system of zoo animal management.

This led to invited plenary lectures at the Annual Meeting of the German Veterinary Association for Animal Protection (TVT) at Nuremberg Zoo in 2023, at the EAZA Meeting of Zoo Educators at Arnhem Zoo in 2024, at the Anniversary Conference of Basle Zoo in 2024, and to invitations for lectures to zoo personnel in various European zoos.

Currently, I believe that the widespread use of a breed & feed population management system is one of my core missions for the remainder of my professional career. How to manage populations under limited resources, i.e. holding space, represents a fundamental dilemma for zoo managers (that is topped, in its fundamentality, only by the question of whether zoos are ethically permissible or not).

Recently, we presented an opinion paper that links various aspects of human-animal interactions and responsibility for both individual animal welfare and species conservation

Clauss et al. (2025) Zoos must embrace animal death for education and conservation. *PNAS* 122: e2414565121