

FREEDOM OR NOT HERE I COME!

THE PHNOM TAMAO WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTER HAS TAKEN UP CAPTIVE BREEDING IN CAMBODIA



A Critically Endangered Sunda pangolin rescued after losing a leg to a snare gets its wound cleaned with iodine by vets at Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre.



A silver langur, of one of the four species part of Wildlife Alliance's Endangered species breeding program.

What is captive breeding, you may ask? Well captive breeding is when animals breed under human control places. Captive breeding is normally within a zoo, so the animals are kept in enclosures and are bred to produce future generations of their species. This technique focuses on mainly endangered animal species to prevent extinction of the species. Captive breeding programs aim to keep a stable, healthy population of species. Many people are hopeful that if the numbers rise high enough then that species will be gradually set free into the wilderness and their own natural habitats/environments.



AN ENDANGERED FEMALE PILEATED GIBBON AT PHNOM TAMAO WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTER.

Different individuals have different viewpoints on captive breeding, some are for captive breeding while others are against it. Here are some reasons why people are against captive breeding: animals are being deprived of their natural habitat and might not have enough room to live in, this especially applies to big animals like elephants. Animals don't have choices on who they get to live with and live closely to other species and humans which may be weird for it, example, a panther might be next to a monkey. There are also concerns on how dependant an animal is on humans rather than its own species. Animals may become bored and/or depressed feeling trapped, causing animals to act with behavioural problems, example, if an animal is not active enough it will pace up and down the viewing glass.

However, people do support captive breeding and are for captive breeding, here are some reasons why: animals can often live a longer lifespan than in the wilderness, this is because they have a specific diet that they follow, which contain the correct amount of nutrients they need to survive. The animals are also protected from predators, and provided with shelter, they are also fed medicine if needed. An example is that a gorilla in captivity outlived her lifespan by around 25 years. To stimulate the animal's zookeepers, hide food to make the animals go on a hunt to find it so they feel less bored. The captive breeding was a success as 11 Eld's deer's, 4 pangolins and 4 gibbons were released into the wild again, and they have successfully reproduced. And this was thanks to their captive bred environment.

In conclusion; my opinion is that I do and don't support captive breeding, I agree with some parts of both, because I understand that the animals are captive bred to keep them safe, as well as understanding that they might not fully adapt to the enclosure they are in and need to be set free otherwise they might forget what the outside world is. - your local journalist, Yusuf Khan