

Calgary Zoo Aerial Map



Parking

Entrance

Prehistoric Park

Eurasia

South America

Africa

Canada Wildlands

Australia

Enmax
Conservatory

Parking

Entrance

100 meters

1020

Bow Valley Dr NE

Alberta Sports
& Recreation
Association
For The Blind

Bow Valley Ln NE

11 St NE

12 St NE

12 St NE

12 St NE

Memorial Dr NE

Memorial Dr NE

12 St NE

12 St NE

Memorial Dr NE

Memorial Dr NE

Memorial Dr NE

Memorial Dr NE

Memorial Dr NE

Memorial Dr NE

Baines Bridge

Entrance

Zoo Rd NE

12 St NE

St George's
Island

Jardim Zoológico
de Calgary

Zoo Rd NE

12 St SE

7 Ave SE

8 Ave SE

704

1004

Inglewood Bed
and Breakfast

Photographing Captive Animals at Zoos and Aquariums

Photographing captive animals at a Zoo or wildlife rehab centre are a great way to learn more about the animals and how to photograph animals more effectively. Zoos don't require long distance travel and there are often many species available including birds, plants and insects. Zoos have an important education role and some of them are also involved in rehabilitating animals or promoting animal conservation.

Ethics and Etiquette

1. Don't disturb the animal by yelling at them, tapping on the windows, feeding them or throwing coins
2. Don't try to pass a photo of captive animal off as a wild animal it will hurt your reputation
3. Obey all zoo rules and regulations and don't cross or climb over the barriers (see YouTube videos).
4. Don't block other visitors views and be particularly careful when using a tripod
5. In some places a flash may not be allowed - watch for signs that prohibit the use of flash
6. Use your visit to the Zoo to learn more about the animals and what you might be able to do to help them survive in the wild.

Discussion: What are some of the pros and cons of zoos?

Should certain animals not be in a zoo or aquarium?



Burrowing Owl Calgary Zoo



Robert Berdan ©

Great Gray Owl



Robert Berdan ©

Whooping Swan



Robert Berdan ©

Black-crowned Night Heron

All photographed at the Calgary Zoo



Golden Eagle - Coaldale Bird Sanctuary



Wolf - Tuk Northern Lights Wolf Centre in Golden, BC



Are animals in confined parks and sanctuary's really "wild"?

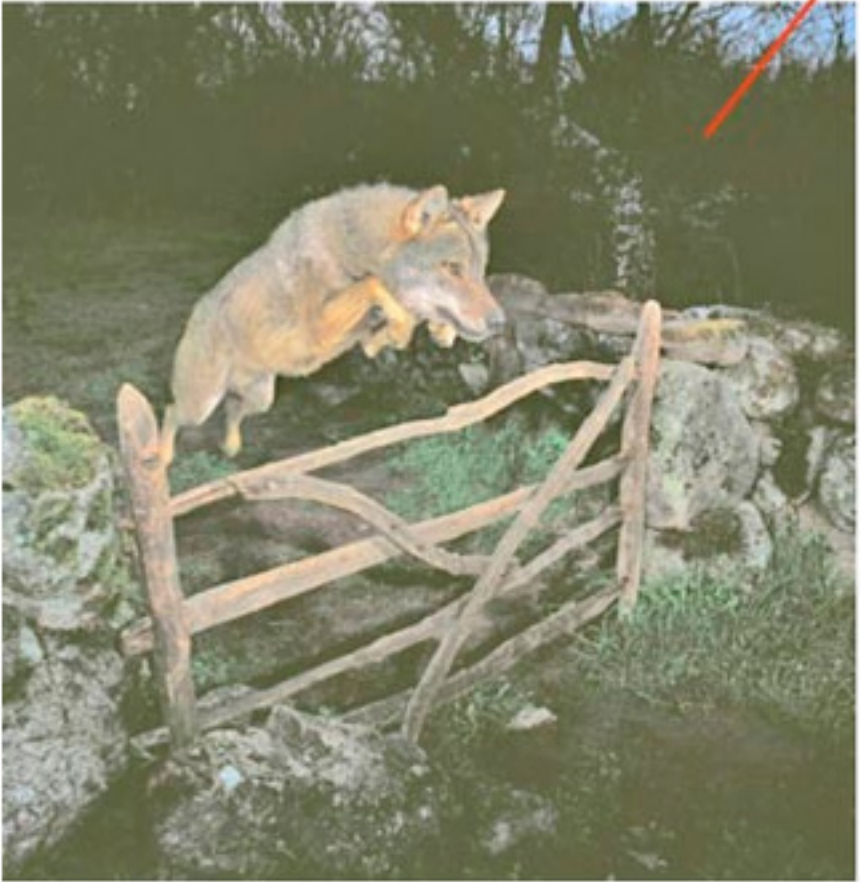




Common Loon - Kananaskis, Barrier Lake, AB

Winner of 2009 BBC Wildlife Photo Contest Disqualified

Enclosure and Trees are the same



José Luis Rodríguez's shot
(picture overexposed in Photoshop to look the background)

'Cañada Real Open Center' (Spain),
a private natural reserve where Iberian wild animals
are shown in captive.



Zoo Photography Challenges

- 1. Limited access times often don't include the best light.**
- 2. Crowds and other people can make it difficult to stay in one spot.**
- 3. Fences and glass between you and the animals are unnatural.**
- 4. Animal habitats are often small and artificial in appearance.**
- 5. Animals may have tags or other markings on them**
- 6. Animal behaviour may not be natural - they are "imprisoned".**
- 7. The feeling of capturing a truly wild animal in its natural habitat is much more exciting.**



Postman butterfly - Calgary Zoo

Overcoming Zoo Photography Challenges

- 1. To remove a fence in the foreground put your telephoto lens as close as possible to the fence and use a wide F-stop setting e.g. F2.8.**
- 2. When photographing through glass or plastic, find an area that is clean with few scratches and place your lens close to the surface. Sometimes a polarizing filter can be helpful. Watch out for reflections.**
- 3. Be patient - spend some time watching the animal.**
- 4. Visit the zoo on bad weather days - it's cheaper and there are fewer people. Overcast light often results in better animal portraits.**
- 5. Photoshop can remove animal tags and blurred fences (use the content aware fill feature and cloning tool).**







Grizzly bear - Ali Oop and trainer Ruth Labarge



EXIT

Explorer

Fish of Alberta

Fish of Alberta

Bow Habitat Aquariums



Summary - Photographing at a Zoo

1. Zoos provide an economical way to encounter, study and photograph a wide variety of animals and plants.
2. A zoo can be a great place to learn how to use your camera to photograph animals and plants.
3. Never misrepresent a photograph of a captive animal as a wild animal.
4. Obey all zoo rules and try not to block other visitors - search for secluded areas to photograph or re-visit on bad weather days.
5. Don't just photograph the big animals - consider the smaller animals, plants and even aquatic animals.
6. Try to photograph the animals in a manner that looks like they are "wild".
7. Take close up shots and focus on the animals eyes.

