

SAFE YOUTH

Kids Voice 4 Animals



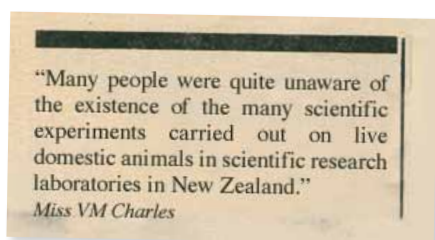
Issue 1 ~ May 2014

SAFE newsletter – for kids who know that animals matter.

Welcome to the first issue of SAFE Youth - Kids' Voice 4 Animals!

SAFE is a New Zealand animal rights group with a long history of campaigning for animals – since 1932 in fact. That's over 80 years!

The first SAFE campaigners protested against animal testing. SAFE members wrote letters to the newspapers, organised anti-vivisection petitions, held stalls and ran regular meetings to discuss ways to stop animal experiments.



Extract from Letter to the Editor
(The Press, 21 January 1966)

Until the early 1990s SAFE was run completely by volunteers. Our first office was opened in 1989 in Hamilton. Hans Kriek was employed in 1991 as SAFE's first staff member.

In the last 30 years SAFE has grown a lot – we now have 12 staff and three offices. Our campaigns have helped animals all around the country:

- Pigs to be liberated from sow stalls at the end of 2015 thanks to our LovePigs campaign.
- No exotic animals are paraded around in circuses and made to perform meaningless tricks.
- Marineland has been closed with no more dolphins held in captivity in marine parks.

Right now SAFE is working to ban cosmetic testing in New Zealand.

SAFE promotes compassion for all animals and understands that the first step towards respect for animals is to stop eating them, wearing them, hunting them for sport, using them in painful experiments and imprisoning them for our entertainment.

If you agree that animals are not ours to own and control then the SAFE Youth Group is here for you!

It is an exciting time to be part of the SAFE Youth Group. You can help SAFE grow and learn about how you too can be a voice for animals!

Nichola

SAFE Education Officer
www.safe.org.nz



MARIUS THE GIRAFFE KILLED IN COPENHAGEN ZOO

SEE PAGE 4 FOR TIPS ON HOW YOU CAN HELP ANIMALS LIKE MARIUS

Marius was a healthy young giraffe who was born at Copenhagen Zoo in Denmark in 2012.



You might think life in a zoo is easy for animals but Marius had a problem. He wasn't suitable for breeding and therefore the zoo did not want him. The zoo tried to find another place for him to go to – but he wasn't considered valuable enough (genetically). What could

they do? Marius had never lived in the wild and giraffes are not endangered. The zoo decided to put down (kill) Marius. It is not unusual for zoos to kill unwanted animals. What is unusual about Copenhagen zoo is that they decided to do a public 'education' dissection of Marius and then feed his body to the lions. Many children watched the dissection of Marius. A zoo spokesperson said, "I'm actually proud because I think we have given children a huge understanding of the anatomy of a giraffe that they wouldn't have had from watching a giraffe in a photo."

The children watched Marius's dissection with sad expressions. Many mouths were turned down in disgust. Marius would have been *someone* to the children before he died. A special, beautiful animal, a friend to be wondered at and loved – but the treatment of Marius and his body after his

death turned him into something – a lump of bloody flesh.

The tragic death of Marius taught us a hard lesson – zoos are places where animals live for human entertainment. They are not sanctuaries and the animals are not always safe. The lessons we learn from zoos do not help us respect and admire the splendour and miracle of animals – they teach us that animals are things, worthless and easily disposed of when no longer needed.



How did this story make you feel?
Tell nichola@safe.org.nz

1. Steed, R. and Rising, P. "Danish zoo kills giraffe to prevent inbreeding". Bigstory.ap.org. Retrieved 2014-02-10.

2. Kyle, S. and Tulloch, L. "Giraffes killing murder most foul" The New Zealand Herald. Retrieved 2014-02-27. http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c_id=466&objectid=11204227

This issue's animal profile is about giraffes - in memory of Marius.

Lifespan: 25 years
 Type of animal: Mammal
 Diet: Herbivore
 Natural habitat: African plains
 How many in the wild? Approximately 80,000

Giraffes are the tallest mammals on earth and can grow up to six metres in height (our tallest humans are around two metres).

Giraffes evolved from an early deer species called the Climacoceratidae (ladder horns). The small horns on the tops of their heads were once antlers and are called ossicones. Unlike horns they are made from cartilage (think of the solid part of your ear) that has turned into bone. These ossicones, unlike horns, are covered in skin and fur with little tufts on top.



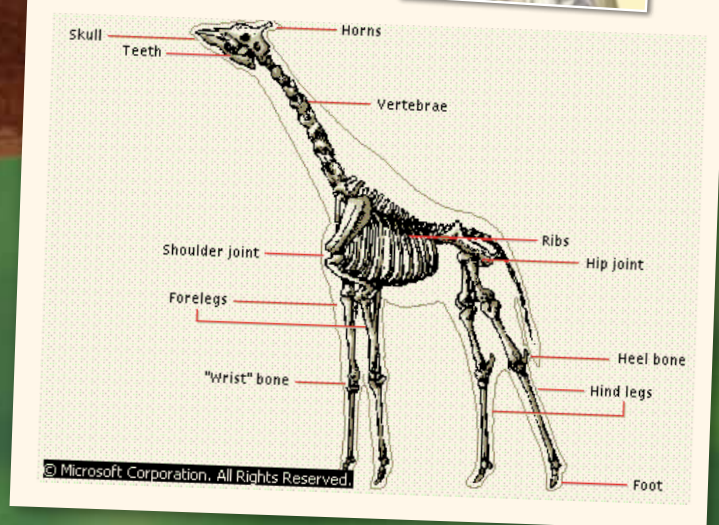
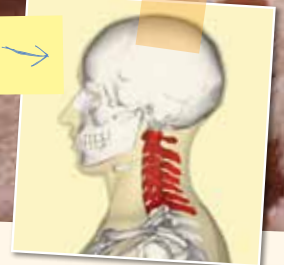
NOTE:

Baby giraffes are not born with very long necks (this would make a difficult birth for the mother). Their necks elongate after birth!

1. "Giraffe - The Facts: Current giraffe status?". Giraffe Conservation Foundation. Retrieved 2010-12-21. http://www.giraffeconservation.org/prj_info.php?cid=111&prjid=4&pgid=31

human neck bones (vertebrae) →

giraffe neck bones ↓



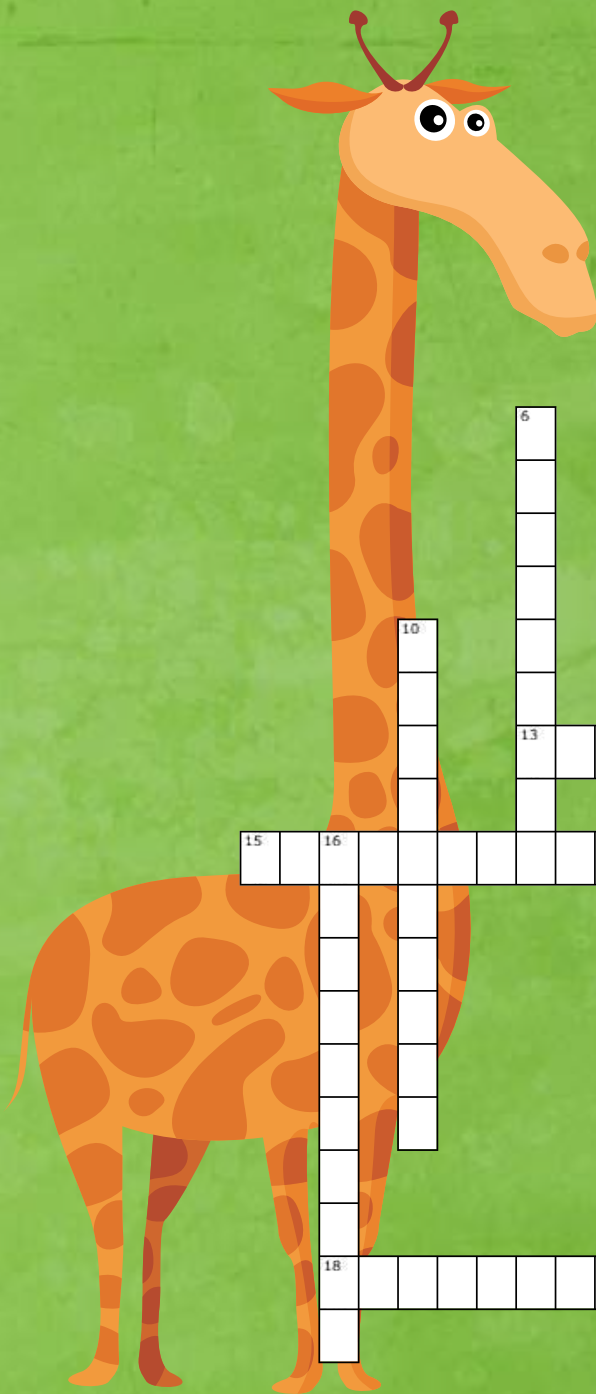
Why do giraffes have long necks?

Scientists are still trying to work out why giraffes have such long necks. It is not because they have more bones in their necks. Like us, giraffes have seven vertebrae in their necks. The vertebrae are simply longer than ours.

About 12 million years ago the forest in Africa changed to grassland. Most people think that giraffes evolved long necks so they could reach the high leaves on the then scarce acacia trees. Scientists are not sure about this though and believe that long necks may have also been more attractive to the female giraffes. Male giraffes fight with their necks to impress the females. This practice may have led to the more powerful giraffes having longer necks. Perhaps in the future this mystery will be solved. Are there any budding evolutionary biologists out there willing to figure out this question?

2. <http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2010-10/01/why-do-giraffes-have-long-necks> Retrieved 25-02-2014

GIRAFFE CROSSWORD



DOWN

1. Humans are beginning to _____ (8) on the habitats of giraffes.
3. Giraffes evolved from a deer species called _____ (9).
6. Zoos are not a _____ (9) for animals.
7. The bones of the neck are called _____ (9).
8. An animal that only eats plants is called a _____ (9).
10. Copenhagen Zoo carried out a public _____ (10) of Marius' body after he died.
12. Marius did not have valuable enough _____ (5) for the zoo breeding programme.
16. There are still enough giraffes around that they are not considered _____ (10).

ACROSS

2. To illegally hunt or kill an animal is to _____ (5).
3. The solid part of your ear is made from _____ (9).
4. The natural home for an animal is called its _____ (7).
5. The small hornlike bumps on top of a giraffe's head are called _____ (9).
9. People go to the zoo as a form of _____ (13).
11. The scientific term for the physical make-up of our bodies is _____ (7).
13. Giraffes like to eat the leaves of _____ (6) trees.
14. Giraffes like to _____ (6) on the leaves of acacia trees.
15. Animals in zoos will often display _____ (13) behaviours.
17. To protect giraffes and other animals in Africa, people have made _____ (8) wildlife areas.
18. After a giraffe is born the neck begins to _____ (8).

TIPS TO HELP ANIMALS

If you are upset about what happened to Marius, there are some easy things you can do.

1. Learn about giraffes

Perhaps you could do a project at school about giraffes? There are some amazing resources online and nature documentaries you could watch. This would be a lovely way to remember Marius.

Born Free

<http://www.bornfree.org.uk/animals/giraffe/facts/>



Giraffe Conservation Foundation

http://www.giraffeconservation.org/giraffe_facts.hp?pgid=40#



National Geographic - Giraffes and Okapi: Lives of Giraffes

http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/animals/mammals-animals/giraffes-and-okapi/giraffe_lifestyle/
(2min 3sec)

The Last of the White Giraffes

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ueAFVVKvS9g> (51min 59sec)

Born to be Wild: Giraffes on the Move

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/born-to-be-wild-giraffes-on-the-move/> (58min 56sec)



2. Avoid the zoo

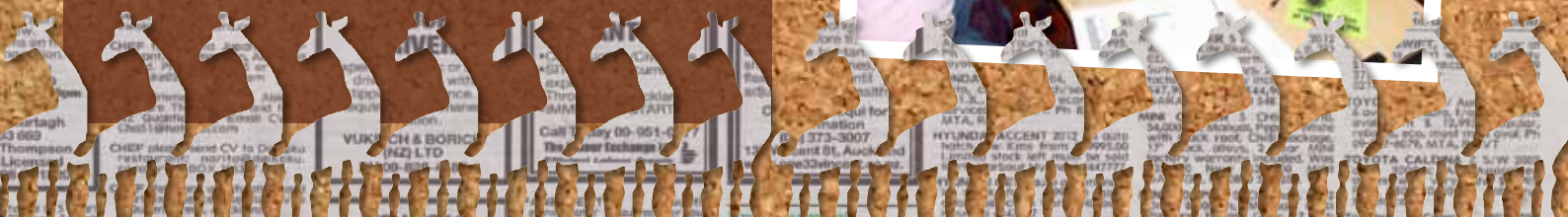
It is tempting to go to the zoo to see animals in person – but if you care about animals living a free and safe life you would be better to give your entrance fee to a charity that works to keep animals in the wild.

Born Free

<http://www.bornfree.org.uk/>

3. Educate others

Make a poster or leaflet about the importance and beauty of giraffes that you can share with others. Perhaps you and your friends could even make a display for your school library.



ANIMALS IN TROUBLE

There are a number of threats to giraffes living in the wild and in captivity.

Habitat destruction

Today over one billion people live in Africa. This growing population is pushing into the areas where giraffes and other wild animals live. Giraffes eat the leaves of acacia trees. In order to create farms, roads, towns and cities people have cut down huge areas of trees and are breaking up the plains where the giraffes live.

Enclosed wildlife areas

To protect animals from human encroachment, enclosed wildlife areas have been set up in Africa. These are a bit like Zealandia in New Zealand – large, fenced off areas that keep the animals safe inside. However, there are some problems with these wildlife areas.

Over browsing

One of the main problems with enclosed wildlife areas is over browsing. This is what happens when animals don't have access to enough vegetation to graze on. In the wilderness if food runs out the animals can walk on to

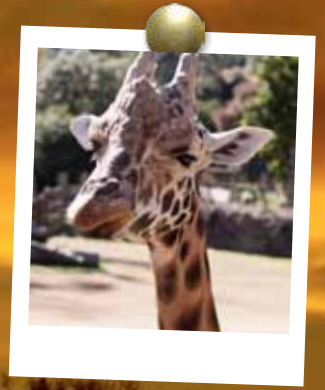
another area. In enclosed wildlife areas the animals can only graze on the food inside the fence. When it runs out they starve.

Poaching

In past years giraffes were hunted for their tails (used as flyswatters) skins (used to make shields, drums and sandals) and their meat (which was eaten).

Problems within zoos

Zoos are not an ideal place for giraffes to live. In the wild, giraffes roam and graze over large areas. They travel in small groups and are not particularly social animals. In zoos they live in small enclosures where they can only walk around in circles within their cage. Giraffes in zoos display many stereotypical abnormal behaviours, including repetitive neck twisting.



KIND FOOD

One of the kindest things you can do for animals is not to eat them! There are lots of yummy recipes without animal products – probably a lot you eat without even knowing.

Have you ever thought about making your own nut butter? It is easy and delicious.

Almond Butter

Ingredients:

2 cups of raw almonds (you can roast them for a few minutes first if you want to).

Pinch of salt

Equipment:

Food processor or a powerful blender

Method:

Place the almonds and salt in the food processor and start blending. It should take about 20 minutes before you get a nice smooth paste. You'll need to stop every few minutes to allow your food processor to cool down - it can get pretty hot!

Get some toast ready and enjoy!



SAFE YOUTH FOR ANIMALS

This is where you can have your letters, pictures, photos, poems and ideas about animals published. Rotorua SAFE Youth Group member Liam Green has decided to write a blog about animals. It is called 'My point of view NZ'.

SAFE YOUTH PROFILE

Name: Liam Green

Age: 13

Hometown: Rotorua

Favourite animal:

I have quite a few but most likely a dog.

What got you interested in wanting to help animals?

I have always loved animals. When I saw animals being treated like they are I joined SAFE to help the animals.

What animal issues upset you the most?

Factory Farming, Animal Testing and Bobby Calves.

What's your favourite veg food?

Salads.

Anything you want to share about animals?

We all have feelings, so we should treat them how we would like to be treated.

About my new website:

I have started a website to spread the word about animal cruelty. Have a look - <http://mypointofviewnz.wordpress.com>



HOW TO JOIN the Safe Youth Group - Kids' Voice 4 Animals

If you would like to join the SAFE YOUTH GROUP - KIDS' VOICE 4 Animals – fill out the form below and send to: Nichola Kriek – Education Officer, SAFE, PO Box 13366, Christchurch 8024.

Name:	
Date of birth:	
Street:	
Suburb:	
City:	
Phone number:	
Email:	

We will send you four newsletters per year and keep you up to date with any SAFE Youth events.

Nichola Kriek – Education Officer
SAFE
PO Box 13366
Christchurch 8024
Ph: 03 379 9711
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Email: nichola@safe.org.nz

SAFE YOUTH GROUP
MEMBERSHIP IS FREE!



SAFE