***In the Zoo or In the Wild?***

Is it better for animals to be left in the wild, or kept in a zoo?  That question came into my head as I stood watching the lions in their enclosure at the zoo.

When I was little, the zoo only had small bare cages for the lions.  Now they have large spaces, and keepers that work very hard to make sure the animals not only stay healthy, but happy.  I think today’s animals in zoos are a lot better off than the lions I saw when I was young.

It’s a wonderful thing for people to see wild animals up close.  We learn about them, we come to love them, and we want to do whatever we can to look after them.  It makes us want to raise money to protect the animals in the wild as well. Zoo animals protect their wild relatives!

Today zoos have breeding programs to protect the type of wild animals that are in danger of becoming extinct.  Zoos also learn a great deal about these animals by caring for them and that knowledge can be used by scientists all over the world to keep looking after all animals in the wild as well.

If the world were a perfect place, I’d want all the animals to roam free, but in a world where people sometimes don’t look after our planet the way we should, it’s good to know that zoos play their role in looking after all these wondrous creatures, both wild and in captivity.