

Zoopark Blagoevgrad

Blagoevgrad Zoo is 5.5 sq hectares. It's publicly owned. And it does not charge on entry. According to locals, lots of people don't often visit. Four Paws - a wildlife protection NGO - says that all but one of the zoo's habitats needs to be completely renovated, sanitation is inadequate, and there have been cases of inbreeding. The first time I went to the zoo I felt empathy for the animal's dim home. And I saw it get worse throughout the year. As winter descends, a grungy melancholy pervades the enclosures making the once depressing habitats seem unlivable. This zoo is inadequately maintained under National and European Union legislation.





According to Four Paws, “the zoo continues to keep lions despite the high number of unmet conditions in the zoo’s license, the birth of the lion cubs is not an accident. Rather, it is an indication of a systematic problem, which is a consequence of the lack of control and unmet obligations under the national and European legislation..”







“Enclosures and premises are not kept in line with the relevant hygiene requirements. Enclosures are being neglected, as their grounds are soaked with moist and mildew. There is no regular cleaning of the enclosures.” - Four Paws

According to Four Paws, the Brown Bear enclosure meets “close to their natural needs,” and is the only habitat that does not need renovations.









The Wolves, and other animals, pace constantly and are easily frightened by me.
Cases of locals throwing stones at the animals have been reported.









According to Four Paws, the Monkeys, and other animals, are kept in “inappropriate conditions” that do not comply with Ordinance No. 6 of European Union legal provisions.

Four Paws says there is a systemic issue in Bulgarian zoos. “Many animals live in unsuitable conditions that are very different from their natural environment, with most zoos providing basic environmental enrichment and limited or no suitable landscaping. In addition, the compliance with the conditions related to species conservation, education, training and research is generally low across most establishments.”

