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**Level 4 – 11th August 2025**

## **Zoo asks for unwanted pets to feed to big cats**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250811-zoo-pet-food-4.html>

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**Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250811-zoo-pet-food-4.html>

A Danish zoo made an unusual request. It asked pet owners to donate unwanted pets, like guinea pigs, rabbits, and even horses. They will be food for the zoo's big cats and other predators. The zoo wants "to imitate the natural food chain of the animals". Using unwanted small creatures means "nothing goes to waste. The zoo added: "We ensure the natural behaviour, nutrition and well-being of our predators." It said all pets would be "gently euthanized".

The zoo said putting down animals for use as feed was common. It said: "Our...guests appreciate the opportunity to contribute." Regardless, there has been mixed reaction online. Some people felt sad. However, a man who donated his horse was satisfied with its treatment. He said his pet was put down peacefully. There is so much interest in donating that there are waiting lists for horses. Donors can get a tax deduction based on their animal's value.

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/08/04/europe/denmark-aalborg-zoo-pets-predators-intl-hnk>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/aug/04/danish-zoo-asks-pet-owners-to-donate-rabbits-and-horses-to-feed-its-predators>  
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/denmark-zoo-donate-small-pets-horses-feed-captive-predators/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250811-zoo-pet-food-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. A Danish zoo made        | a. chain              |
| 2. pet                      | b. unwanted pets      |
| 3. donate                   | c. euthanized         |
| 4. guinea                   | d. predators          |
| 5. big cats and other       | e. waste              |
| 6. imitate the natural food | f. an unusual request |
| 7. nothing goes to          | g. owners             |
| 8. all pets would be gently | h. pigs               |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. putting down animals for  | a. reaction online |
| 2. Our guests appreciate the | b. lists           |
| 3. there has been mixed      | c. opportunity     |
| 4. his pet was put           | d. in donating     |
| 5. There is so much interest | e. value           |
| 6. waiting                   | f. use as feed     |
| 7. Donors can get a tax      | g. down peacefully |
| 8. based on their animal's   | h. deduction       |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250811-zoo-pet-food-4.html>

A Danish zoo made (1) \_\_\_\_\_. It asked pet owners to (2) \_\_\_\_\_, like guinea pigs, rabbits, and even horses. They will be food for the zoo's big cats (3) \_\_\_\_\_. The zoo wants "to imitate the natural food chain of the animals". Using unwanted (4) \_\_\_\_\_ "nothing goes to waste. The zoo added: "We ensure the natural behaviour, nutrition and well-being (5) \_\_\_\_\_. It said all pets would (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The zoo said (7) \_\_\_\_\_ for use as feed was common. It said: "Our...guests appreciate the opportunity to contribute." Regardless, there has been (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Some people felt sad. However, a man (9) \_\_\_\_\_ horse was satisfied (10) \_\_\_\_\_. He said his pet was put down peacefully. There is so much interest in donating that there (11) \_\_\_\_\_ for horses. Donors can get a (12) \_\_\_\_\_ on their animal's value.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250811-zoo-pet-food-4.html>

ADanishzoomadeanunusualrequest.Itaskedpetownerstodonateunwantedpets,likeguineapigs,rabbits,andevenhorses.Theywillbefoodforthezoo'sbigcatsandotherpredators.Thezoowants"toimitatethenaturalfoodchainoftheanimals".Usingunwantedsmallcreaturesmeans"nothinggoestowaste.Thezooadded:"Weensurethenaturalbehaviour,nutritionandwell-beingofourpredators."It saidallpetswouldbe"gentlyeuthanized".Thezoosaidputtingdownanimalsforuseasfeedwascommon.Itsaid:"Our...guestsappreciatetheopportunitytocontribute."Regardless,therehasbeenmixedreactiononline.Somepeoplefeltsad.However,amanwhodonatedhishorsewassatisfiedwithitstreatment.Hesaidhispetwasputdownpeacefully.Thereissomuchinterestindonatingthattherearewaitinglistsforhorses.Donorscangetataxdeductionbasedontheiranimal'svalue.

# ZOOS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250811-zoo-pet-food-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about zoos in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.  
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

## WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250811-zoo-pet-food-4.html>

Write about **zoos** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]