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Level 5 – 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-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250811-zoo-pet-food-5.html>

A Danish zoo has made an unusual request. It asked pet owners to donate unwanted pets, such as chickens, guinea pigs, rabbits, and even small horses. These will not be exhibited in the zoo. Instead, they will be food for the resident big cats and other predators. The zoo wants "to imitate the natural food chain of the animals". Using the unwanted small creatures as food means "nothing goes to waste. The zoo added: "We ensure the natural behaviour, nutrition and well-being of our predators." It assured owners that pets would be "gently euthanized" before becoming food.

The zoo said putting down animals for use as feed was common in Denmark. The zoo's deputy director said: "Our guests and partners appreciate the opportunity to contribute." Regardless, there has been mixed reaction on social media. Some people felt sad about the euthanasia scheme. However, a man who donated a horse was satisfied with its treatment. He said his pet was put down "in the most peaceful and calm way". There is so much interest in donating that there are waiting lists for horses. Donors can even 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-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. A Danish zoo has made | a. chain of the animals |
| 2. guinea | b. predators |
| 3. These will not be exhibited | c. pigs |
| 4. food for the resident big | d. euthanized |
| 5. imitate the natural food | e. cats |
| 6. nothing goes | f. in the zoo |
| 7. well-being of our | g. to waste |
| 8. pets would be gently | h. an unusual request |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. putting down animals for | a. the opportunity |
| 2. the zoo's deputy | b. lists for horses |
| 3. guests and partners appreciate | c. director |
| 4. there has been mixed reaction | d. euthanasia scheme |
| 5. people felt sad about the | e. deduction |
| 6. He said his pet was put | f. use as feed |
| 7. there are waiting | g. on social media |
| 8. Donors can even get a tax | h. down |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250811-zoo-pet-food-5.html>

A Danish zoo has made (1) _____. It asked pet owners to donate unwanted pets, such as chickens, guinea pigs, rabbits, and (2) _____. These will not be exhibited in the zoo. Instead, they will be food for the resident big cats (3) _____. The zoo wants "to imitate the natural (4) _____ the animals". Using the unwanted small creatures as food means "nothing (5) _____. The zoo added: "We ensure the natural behaviour, nutrition and well-being of our predators." It assured owners that pets would (6) _____ before becoming food.

The zoo said putting down animals for (7) _____ was common in Denmark. The zoo's deputy director said: "Our guests and partners appreciate the (8) _____. " Regardless, there has been mixed reaction on social media. Some people felt sad about (9) _____. However, a man who donated a horse was satisfied (10) _____. He said his pet was put down "in the most peaceful and calm way". There is so much interest in donating that there are (11) _____ horses. Donors can even get a tax (12) _____ their animal's value.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250811-zoo-pet-food-5.html>

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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-5.html>

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

[illegible]