

Sample Letters of Support: **Proposed Zoo Tobacco-Free Policy**

From a community member:

[Insert date]

Zoo Director
Zoo Name
123 Zoo Blvd.
Yourtown, USA

Dear Mr./Ms. Director:

I am writing to express support for establishing the grounds of the zoo as tobacco-free. By supporting a tobacco-free policy, the zoo can send a clear message that it cares about the health of all kids and that it wants them to make positive lifestyle decisions. A tobacco-free policy will help ensure that adults are serving as positive role models, by not using tobacco when visiting the zoo.

Tobacco use not only exposes zoo visitors to the harmful effects of secondhand smoke, but it is also a nuisance and a safety concern. The litter caused by tobacco use diminishes the beauty of the zoo and can be accidentally ingested by young children or animals. In addition, the zoo should be a place where children and families can go where the health of the environment, the animals and the people who visit, are valued and supported. Tobacco-free zoo grounds are growing in popularity across the county and the world. Of the ____ zoos and animal parks in our state, ____ zoos prohibit outdoor tobacco use.

[Insert personal experiences].

I encourage you to make the grounds of the zoo tobacco-free. Thank you for considering a tobacco-free policy.

Jane Brown
Concerned Community Member

From an organization:

[Insert date]

Zoo Director
Zoo Name
123 Zoo Blvd.
Yourtown, USA

Dear Mr./Ms. Director:

I am writing in support of tobacco-free grounds at the zoo. A tobacco-free policy sends a clear message that we care about the well being of the abundant natural resources at the zoo, as well as the health of the zoo visitors, especially our youth.

One of the reasons *[Your organization]* supports a tobacco-free zoo, is to help ensure that our youth receive consistent messages regarding tobacco use at all of the recreational settings they visit. All of the schools' property, many of the park systems, and ____ other zoos in our state have prohibited tobacco use.

Tobacco use in a zoo setting not only exposes visitors to the harmful effects of secondhand smoke, but it is also a nuisance and safety concern. Youth are often taught in school about the value of a clean, healthy environment by not littering, and the tobacco-free policy will help reduce litter and support this message. Tobacco use at the zoo also sends a negative message to our youth that tobacco use is an acceptable behavior.

[Your organization] supports the local students who are leading the effort to have this policy adopted and we encourage you to prohibit tobacco use at the ____ Zoo.

Thank you for considering a tobacco-free policy.

Thank you,

John Doe
[Title/role with organization]