



# FACT SHEETS!

## BELFAST ZOO

Belfast Zoo, or Bellevue Zoo as it was first called, opened in 1934 on the side of Cave Hill in north Belfast.

**FACT!** 250,000 people visit Belfast Zoo every year.

### LITTER IN THE ZOO GROUNDS

Although litter bins are provided around the zoo grounds, some people still do not use them and prefer to drop litter. Litter therefore has a huge part to play in what visitors think of the zoo and indeed Belfast itself.

**FACT!** 3% of visitors said that litter was one of the things they found least attractive about the zoo.

### HOW LITTER AFFECTS ANIMALS IN THE ZOO

Litter eaten by animals can cause them to become very ill or even die.

- Sorrel the sea lion chased bright objects in the sea lion pool thinking they were fish. In fact they were coins. She ate 80 coins and became very ill.
- The Mhorr gazelle is one of the rarest animals in the zoo. One died suddenly and a plastic bag was found in her stomach. It had fallen in the enclosure and she had eaten it.



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- Five penguins died from eating litter left by zoo visitors. The enclosure is now surrounded by glass windows. Unfortunately this does not allow for such good viewing for visitors, but does ensure the penguins are safe.
- If each visitor fed a single crisp to a chimpanzee, it would amount to over 100 bags of crisps a day. Angela, the chimp in the zoo, developed diabetes. Despite signs asking visitors not to feed the chimps, people still feed her and leave the crisp packages around her enclosure.

## FACT!

The zoo can become very busy and can attract over 7,000 visitors per day.

### **COST OF LITTERING IN THE ZOO**

A member of the zoo's grounds team collects litter all day, seven days a week. People are more likely to litter where they think someone else will clean up after them.

### **What should I do with my litter if I am in a public place?**

If you cannot find a bin you should put your litter in your pocket until you find a litter bin or until you get home where you can put it in your wheelie bin.

### **Why do people litter in zoos and other public places?**

We carried out some research into littering. Our research showed that 60% of people admitted to littering. The main reason given was laziness.



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## WHEN ARE PEOPLE MOST LIKELY TO LITTER?

When asked when they were most likely to litter, most people said that it was when no bin was at hand.

**FACT!** There are currently more than 1,700 litter bins across Belfast.

## MANAGING LITTER AT EVENTS

At large events it is the responsibility of the event organisers to make sure there are enough litter bins provided for the number of people attending the event. The organiser should ask the council for advice.