

KU student's Kickstarter funded zoo film is ready to watch

A few months we shared a story on My Kingston about a student, Nanna Paskesen, who was using Kickstarter to raise money to make a documentary examining the behaviour of animals in zoos. Thanks to huge interest, contribution exceeded expectations and the film is now complete. You can watch it [here](#) and read Nanna's story below, and see more photos on [Facebook](#).

Since a young age, I have been passionate about animals and have wanted to help them in the complex life and future they have, sharing the earth with us. Being a Dr Doolittle with no scientific talent at all, I decided to use my creative potential to help, inspire and educate.

I have been to zoos millions of times and I have always felt helpless and sad when I have seen animals looking distressed and bored in their enclosures. Studying Media and Culture here at Kingston has equipped me with a combination of skills, so there was no question that my final major project here would be a documentary about the abnormal behaviour pattern in animals housed in zoos.

Animal species have evolved over many years and their physical, psychological, social and behavioural traits have developed in order for them to survive in the wild. In captivity, animals are not always able to fulfil their complete set of natural behaviours and they start to perform repetitive and functionless actions, called stereotypic behaviours.

The study of stereotypic behaviour is extremely complex with many factors that determine the health of a captive animal, so it was important for me to deliver a well-researched and objective study, and this couldn't be done on a student budget!

I created a Kickstarter campaign to fund the making Zoochosis. I starting out asking for £500, and when I reached that goal in just three days, I realised how important and relevant to other people this study actually was. I decided to make stretch goals to make the film bigger and better and ended up having £1,440 pledged in just 30 days.

My new budget allowed me to end up with an incredible result, which will give people a valuable lesson about abnormal behaviours in zoo animals and the whole discussion about having animals in captivity.

Zoochosis brings the whole picture of how animals experience living in a stressful and unnatural environment, and how it affects their mental and natural life.

