The end for John's little farm - 460 animals need a new home

The Seeland zoo will close at the end of August 2024. The search for a new location proved hopeless.

They probably don't yet know what's in store for them: animals in John's little farm.

Because the zoo is closing at the end of August, a new home must be found for 460 animals.

Adrian Moser/Tamedia AG

John-David Bauder (picture) founded the small zoo in August 1996.

This is what it's about

The John's Little Farm animal park is closing at the end of August 2024.

The search for a new location failed due to high costs and an unfavorable location.

There will be a farewell party on August 18th, after which the animals will be moved to new accommodations.

The John's Little Farm animal park is closing its doors at the end of August 2024. The search for a new location has been unsuccessful, as those responsible announced on Saturday.

It had already become clear two years ago that the zoo would have to disappear from Kallnach. In June 2022, the population voted against the necessary rezoning of the area into a zoo zone.

The canton could not help either

Since then, they have been looking for a new location. A project that had initially turned out to be promising failed because it could not have been implemented within a reasonable time frame. Finally, the board asked the Bern cantonal government to find an alternative location.

Without success: "Due to high costs, poor location or inadequate infrastructure, no suitable location could be found where John's little farm could flourish again. The current difficult situation with regard to the lack of skilled workers is making matters worse; even on the secondary labor market, not enough farm assistants can be recruited," writes John's little farm in a press release.

Support association continues to exist

With a zoo festival on August 18th - just in time for the 28th birthday - zoo friends will have the opportunity to say goodbye to the team and the animals. After that, the facility will remain closed to visitors and the animals will be taken to their new homes by the end of the month. 460 animals from 70 species, including around 100 fish and 175 invertebrates, need a new home. John's little farm is currently in contact with various zoos and animal parks.

The animal park's support association with around 140 individual and family members will continue to exist. "The purpose is to be adapted next year for projects in the area of ​​animal and species protection," it continues. The board will develop a concrete concept after the zoo has closed. No final decision has yet been made on the sale of the property or the timing of the fence removal.