

The Education & Conservation Claim

Although some countries, including the United States, require captive display facilities to provide an education component in order to maintain their license to hold captive cetaceans, there is little evidence that the public's understanding of the natural behavior, conservation status and demographics of wild cetaceans is advanced by the educational messages they present.

Likewise, despite robust public relations messaging that conservation is their primary goal, very few captive display facilities are involved in worthwhile conservation programs in the wild. In fact, relative to the revenue generated by their captive cetaceans, they spend very little on conservation.



What can a dolphin jumping through a ring of fire be teaching anyone? That intelligent and social sentient animals can be trained to perform circus tricks?



What is educating about dolphins lying bored and hungry at the gates teach us?

The Link Between The Dolphin Drive Hunts & Captivity

The most brutal cetacean capture method is the drive hunt, in which fisherman disorientate whole pods of dolphins or small whales by banging on pipes suspended in the sea from boats, making a wall of noise which deafens the dolphins and scares them into a shallow cove where the pretty ones are taken to be sold to captive facilities for upwards of \$150K.



The old and young that are not taken for captivity are brutally slaughtered for their meat.

In the Japanese town of Taiji, close to 2,000 cetaceans may be killed each year. The season starts every September occurring daily for six months ending in April.

The captivity industry is what keeps this barbaric practice going.

Visit www.savejapandolphins.org for more information



Get Informed & Make a Difference

Movies/Documentaries:

Blackfish
The Cove
A Fall From Freedom
Lolita: Slave to Entertainment
The Whale
Free Willy Story: Keiko's Journey Home

Children's Books:

"Will There be Whales There?" by Jackie Curtis
"Granny's Clan: A Tale of Wild Orcas" by Dr. Sally Hodson
"Discovering Marine Mammals" by Nancy Field and Sally Machlis

Books:

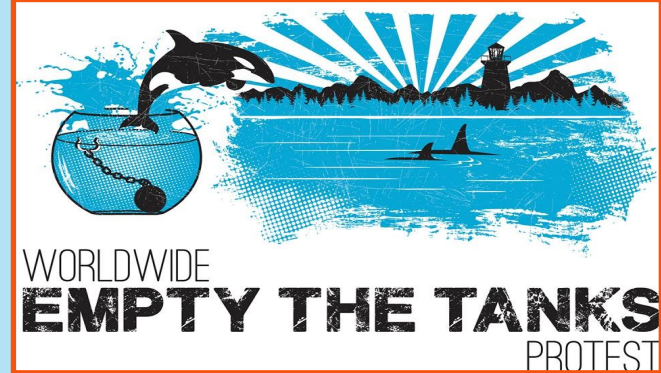
"Death at SeaWorld" by David Kirby
"Freeing Keiko" by Kenneth Brower
"Voice of the Dolphins" by Hardy Jones
"Behind the Dolphin Smile" by Ric O'Barry
"Operation Orca" by Gill Hewlett
"In Defense of Dolphins" by Thomas White
"Orca: The Whale Called Killer" by Erich Hoyt
"My Life with New Zealand's Killer Whales" by Ingrid Visser
"Listening to Whales: What the Orcas Have Taught Us" by Alexandra Morton

The most effective way to fight the captive cetacean industry is with your wallet. Don't visit captive cetaceans on display!

There is no need to confine and degrade cetaceans to enjoy their beauty. Countless responsible whale watching companies allow people to observe cetaceans in their natural environment. While IMAX and other nature films provide a far more realistic perspective than a visit to a tank.



Please join our Facebook Page
Free The Mojave Dolphins at www.facebook.com/lasvegasdolphins
For more information and ways to help the dolphins held captive at The Mirage



Empty the Tanks Worldwide is a global protest that debuted in 2013 with 27 locations in 12 countries. The idea was conceived by a Cove Guardian watching over the annual dolphin slaughter in Taiji, Japan. She wanted a way to continue making a difference after she returned home, and thus Empty the Tanks Worldwide was born.

This is not a radical movement to release all the captive marine mammals into the wild. Some of these animals are great candidates for release, but those that are not should be retired into sea-pens, where they can enjoy the rest of their days in natural seawater, feeling the waves of the ocean around them. They should not be worked until their last breath is taken and then thrown out like trash and replaced.



These entertainment parks have no place in the 21st century. We know the level of awareness these animals have. We know their social connections, their eating habits, and natural wild behaviors. You cannot breed natural instincts out of an animal in only a handful of generations. These are incredibly social, intelligent beings that are being used to make money. It is animal abuse, and it needs to be brought to the general public's attention.

Empty the Tanks Worldwide is a public awareness campaign. It is an opportunity to educate the public about a situation they are simply ignorant to. These annual events will allow activists to reach the public all over the world in a positive and productive way.

Please join us and help get the message out. Together we can make a stand, make some noise, and empty the tanks worldwide.

Did You Know?

- ◆ Captive dolphins have to put up with an artificial diet, unusual noise, strange odors, and the proximity of people and other unfamiliar animals.
- ◆ Although not naturally aggressive to humans, cetaceans in captivity have inflicted serious injuries - on people who have been swimming and petting them. Even trainers with extensive experience have been seriously injured, and in 3 cases, killed by orca.
- ◆ Dolphins produce 3-5 times as much urine and feces as humans. When several dolphins are permanently confined in a concrete tank, large amounts of sewage are produced every day. Spray exhaled from cetaceans blowholes, as well as water contaminated with marine mammal's urine and feces, can transmit several infectious diseases to humans.



- ◆ To a dolphin, a pool is a cage. These fast moving animals, which form complex social groups when free, cannot behave naturally in captivity.
- ◆ The abnormal behaviors of captive dolphins prove that a lack of stimulation causes them terrible stress. Swimming listlessly in circles is just one common indicator of boredom and psychological distress.
- ◆ Space is also an issue - pools are miserably small for large, far ranging animals that would swim up to 50 miles a day in the wild.



Dying To Entertain You

Imagine being forced to live your life in a small windowless room, devoid of anything or anyone familiar to you. That's what faces a dolphin or whale that was captured from the wild for display in a zoo or aquarium.

Many people who love dolphins and whales (known as cetaceans) have no idea how barren and unnatural their lives really are in captivity. Dolphins in tanks may look as though they are smiling but the truth is, these dolphins are smiling when they are being killed in Japan as well. It's a quirk of their anatomy. The reality of their lives in tanks is tragic.

And don't be fooled by the "captive bred" line that many captive facilities like to use. These facilities still utilize the wild dolphin operation to diversify their gene pools for breeding.



Wild cetaceans live in complex societies with their own culture and language and strong social bonds. They maintain close family ties and travel long distances to forage and socialize. Cetaceans in captivity are denied these freedoms. It's impossible to recreate anything natural for a cetacean in a concrete tank. Cetaceans have a much shorter life expectancy in



The Truth About Swim With The Dolphin Programs

On the surface, Swim-With-The-Dolphin (SWTD) programs seem like a fun, safe way to get up-close and personal with these fascinating sea creatures. The dolphins appear to smile as they pull laughing children around on their dorsal fins. But you don't have to look too deep beneath this whimsical facade to realize that there is something fundamentally wrong with all SWTD programs. Currently the USDA does not regulate SWTD programs, and as a result, record keeping concerning human injuries and dolphin deaths are often not complete, with countless dolphin deaths going unreported. Unfortunately, the commercial success of the SWTD programs and the high profile large facilities in the US have spawned a legion of copycat operations around the world. These operations are the driving force between a sharp rise in dolphin captures from the wild. Many of these facilities are new and lack the necessary funds and staff to properly care for the dolphins. These attractions are marketed as educational and eco-friendly, but what participants don't realize is that they are not only contributing to



this expanding profit-driven industry, but they are ensuring that dolphins will continue to suffer in captivity and be captured from the ocean.



Dolphins, Belugas and Orcas are large, powerful predators. Although not naturally aggressive towards humans, cetaceans in captivity have inflicted serious injuries-including broken bones and internal injuries on people who have been swimming with and petting them. Even trainers with extensive experience have been seriously injured and even killed by Orcas.

Things To Look Out For At Captive Dolphin Facilities

- ◆ Dolphins poking their head up above water: Captive dolphins spend 80% of their time at the surface of the water looking for scraps of food and attention. This is in direct contrast to dolphins in the wild who spend 80% of their time underwater swimming and playing, hunting and exploring.
- ◆ Beaching themselves as part of the show so that visitors can pet or kiss them: If left in this position for an extended period, a dolphins



immense weight on land would slowly crush its internal organs.



Captive dolphins have been trained to ignore their natural instincts.

- ◆ Vocalizing for food rewards and nodding their head as if to say "yes" or "no" and offering "handshakes" or waving at the audience with their pectorals: Dolphins are trained through food deprivation. When they successfully perform a trick, they are rewarded with scraps of fish. If a captive dolphin waves at you, it is because he or she is hungry, plain and simple.
- ◆ Swimming in circles, constantly peering through the fence or floating listlessly on the surface of the water: These behaviors indicate that the animal is bored and psychologically stressed. Wild dolphins rarely lie still and with the entire ocean at their disposal, they would have no need to swim in circles.