

How to ID Current Dolphins



MAIN TANK

DUCHESS; biggest dolphin at the Mirage. Jagged dorsal. White streaks on her melon. White on her left pectoral flipper

Looking for stimulation

male in this tank.

HUF-N-PUF; narrow face. Light white streaks on melon. White freckles on dorsal. Smaller than duchess.

CENTER TANK

BELLA; smallest female. Wrinkles on edge of blow-hole.

K2; giant dorsal fin. White on sides. Wave like scar on left eye. Rusty dot under chin.

MIRAMAR; smaller, darker dorsal. Shortest calf in the baby tank.



REAR TANK

MAVERICK; lots of pox. Narrow face. Perfect flukes.

OSBOURNE; white on dorsal

BEETLE; big head. Flower shaped pox on his right side.



Dolphins in Rear Pool

Mirage Facts

MGM properties are the largest owners on the Strip, with the Mirage being the hotel that made the Las Vegas strip resort what it is known for today. MGM has already made a step in the right direction by choosing to retire the former lions at the MGM resort. We are aware that the majority of the dolphins at the Mirage have been born in captivity, but still believe these dolphins have the right to retire to a seapen. A dozen dolphins have already given your establishment the name "Dolphin Death Pool". Please do not let anymore dolphins suffer.

No adequate shelter for the dolphins at The Mirage. Section 3.104 (3)(b) of the Animal Welfare Act states: "Natural or artificial shelter which is appropriate for the species concerned, when the local climatic conditions are taken into consideration, shall be provided for all marine mammals kept outdoors to afford them protection from the weather or from direct sunlight."

Ways to Help the Mojave Dolphins



<http://facebook.com/LasVegasDolphins>

<http://dolphinproject.org>

http://www.ceta-base.com/phinventory/historicalphins/allphins_mirage.html

http://databases.sun-sentinel.com/news/browse/ftlaudMarineMammals4/ftlaudMarineMammals_list.php

http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2006-08-21/news/DOLPHIN21_1_dolphin-cove-seaworld-animals

<http://suite101.com/a/mirage-dolphin-habitat-or-desert-dolphin-death-pool>

<http://suite101.com/a/mirage-dolphin-habitat-token-accreditation-profit>

<http://suite101.com/a/mirage-dolphin-habitat-has-potted-history-dolphins>



Why The Mirage Dolphins Aren't Happy in Captivity



Beneath all the glitz and glamour (& debauchery) of Las Vegas lies a tourist trap called The Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat. Within this small network of pools currently lies 9 dolphins. These 9 dolphins include 3 generations of captive slaves, 2 dolphins stolen from the wild in the 80s, and 2 dolphins from SeaWorld - one of which is known to have bitten a small child! These dolphins are subjected to the unforgiving Mojave sun as well as fumes from the highways surrounding Sin City. Twelve dolphins have died within the confines of the Mojave Desert since its' opening in 1990. The Mirage may have forgotten about them, but we haven't.

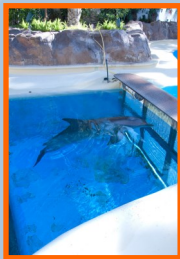
Dolphin Facts

- 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 mortality rates and 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.



Dolphins at Gate-Bored

- 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.
- By withholding food, some trainers coerce dolphins into repetitive and unnatural behaviors, performing tricks for the public. Hunger forces the dolphins to ignore their most basic natural instincts. They are even trained to beach themselves, despite the danger doing so.



Dolphin at gate

hundreds of dolphins not selected for captivity are slaughtered inhumanely for meat.

- Many dolphins do not survive the trauma of capture. Of those that do, 53% die within three months of confinement. Captive dolphins also suffer and die from intestinal disease, stress-related illness and chlorine poisoning.



Capture Process

- Swim with the Dolphins programs allow visitors to pet captive dolphins in shallow pools or interact with them in deeper water by swimming beside them, or being towed around by holding onto the dorsal fin. Currently the USDA does not regulate SWT programs, and as a result, record keeping concerning human injuries and dolphin deaths are often not complete, with countless dolphin deaths going unreported.



Skin Issues due to stress



Dolphin Hydration

Current Dolphins

- Duchess is a female dolphin that was captured from the wild near Texas on September 4th 1981. Her original captor was Quinlan Marine Enterprises, but she had been shuffled back and forth between Dinnes Memorial Vet Hospital and Milwaukee Zoo twice a year between 1987 and 1989. She arrived at the Mirage on October 19th 1990. She has mothered 7 calves, Squirt, Buggy, Pablo, Huf-N-Puf, Maverick, Sgt Pepper, K2.



- Lightning is a male dolphin that was captured from the wild near Florida on August 10th 1989. He arrived in Las Vegas on April 9th 2006 from Gulf World Marine Park. He has fathered many calves; Indie, Ripley, Zoe, Venus, Maia, Luna, Sgt Pepper, Bella, K2, and MiraMar.

- Huf-N-Puf is a female dolphin born on March 7th 2000 to Duchess and Banjo. She has two calves, Bella, born in 2008, and MiraMar, born in 2011.



- Maverick is a male dolphin born on Feb 27th 2003 to Duchess and Banjo. He has yet to father any calves. He is currently suffering from the most severe case of the pox virus at the Mirage.



- Beetle is a male dolphin born on August 11th 2003 in Florida at Seaworld Orlando to mother Bailey. He has been involved in at least one publicized event where he bit the hand of a little boy during an interaction session in 2006. Beetle was moved to Las Vegas on March 28th 2010.



- Osbourne is a male dolphin born on August 5th 2005 at Seaworld San Antonio to Nacha and Gilly. He was moved to Las Vegas on March 28th 2010.

- Bella is a female dolphin born on September 6th 2008 to Huf-N-Puf and Lightning.



- K2 is one of the youngest boys at the Mirage. He was born July 3rd 2011 to Duchess and Lightning.

- MiraMar is the baby of the group, but not by much. He was born August 20th 2011 to Huf-N-Puf and Lightning.



RIP to 53% of The Mirage Dolphins

- Sigma was a female dolphin captured from the wild on August 1st 1975. She was the first dolphin to arrive at The Mirage in March 1990 from Sea-Arama Inc. She gave birth to a stillborn calf on May 23rd 1992, her only one. Sigma passed away March 21st 2004 from heart failure.
- Banjo was a male dolphin captured from the wild on November 9th 1978. He arrived at the Mirage in Las Vegas on October 19th 1990 from Dinnes Memorial Vet Hospital. He has sired 4 calves, Sage, Huf-N-Puf, Rascal (Wizard), and Maverick. Banjo passed away on October 12th 2004 from heart failure.
- Merlin was a male dolphin captured from the wild on October 27th 1982. He arrived in Las Vegas on October 19th 1990 from Dinnes Memorial Vet Hospital. He fathered 3 calves, Squirt, Picabo, and Darla's calf. Merlin passed away on October 27th 1994 from Bronchointerstitial Fungal Pneumonia.
- Darla was a female dolphin captured from the wild on June 27th 1985. She arrived in Las Vegas on October 19th 1990 from Marineland Cote D'Azur. She gave birth to one calf in 1991 who passed away 3 weeks later. Her successful calves were Picabo and Sage. Darla passed away on August 5th 1999 from Severe Chronic Necrotizing Pancreatitis/Hemorrhage&Edema.
- Squirt was a captive male dolphin born at the Mirage on April 5th 1991 to Duchess and Merlin. He was suffering from Chronic and Progressive Pneumonia and had to be euthanized on April 28th 2006.
- Darla's calf was a calf born to Darla and Merlin on April 7th 1991. The calf was a female who died 3 weeks later on the 21st of April. The cause of death was Pulmonary Edema&Interstitial Pneumonitis.
- Sigma's calf was a female stillborn on May 23rd 1992.
- Picabo was a female dolphin born on March 14th 1994 to Darla and Merlin. At the age of 6, she gave birth to Rascal (Wizard). She passed away on July 2nd 2004 due to acute septic peritonitis.
- Buggy was a male calf born to Duchess on March 31st 1994. He only lived to be 3 years old, passing away on July 5th 1997 from a pulmonary abscess.
- Rascal was a male dolphin who also went by the name of Wizard. He was born to Picabo and Banjo on May 15th 2001. He passed away on Dec 3rd 2004. His cause of death was undetermined.
- Sage was a female dolphin born on May 24th 1997 to Darla and Banjo. She passed away on July 5th 2008. Her cause of death has not been released.
- Sgt. Pepper was a male dolphin born on June 8th 2007 to Duchess and Lightning. He sadly passed away on June 3rd 2009 due to Fungal Tracheitis, Pneumonia. His death was highly publicized and criticized.