

From the Panhandle to the Florida Keys, the scene is familiar: large crowds cheer as splashing orcas leap through the air for a handful of fish, dolphins are ridden by human performers as if they were water skis, and sea lions wave to the audience on command. Employees at marine parks like to tell audiences that the animals wouldn't perform if they weren't happy, and until now this assertion has gone largely unchallenged.

But as news gets out about traumatic captures, barren concrete tanks, high mortality rates, and aberrant – even dangerous – animal behavior, people are beginning to realize that hidden behind the dolphin's "smile" is an industry built on suffering.

Florida is the birthplace of, and still the biggest player in the marine park industry, with **13 attractions** and over **360 captive marine mammals**, more than any other state.

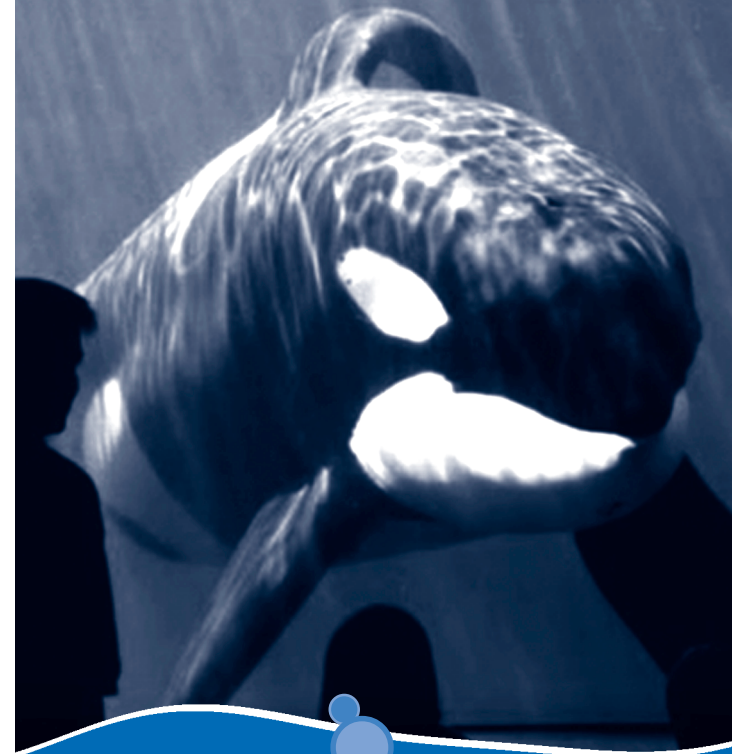


THANKS, BUT NO TANKS!

Fortunately, for marine mammals, more and more people are becoming concerned about marine mammal suffering, and uncomfortable at sea circuses. Citizens are now speaking out loudly that dolphins and whales belong in the ocean.

There are several ways you can help end the misery of marine mammals imprisoned in marine parks and aquariums:

- refuse to visit them
- educate your family, friends and co-workers
- notify ARFF of any substandard conditions you encounter
- become an **ARFF member**



YES!



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MORE INFORMATION



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CHLORINATED CRUELTY

THE TRUTH ABOUT MARINE PARKS & AQUARIUMS

LEARN MORE
take a look inside



FAMILIES TORN APART

In the ocean, orcas and dolphins stay with their families, or "pods," their entire lives, communicating with each other in a dialect specific to their family pod. Their worlds are shattered during the violent capture process, when pods of orcas and dolphins are chased to exhaustion using airplanes, boats, harpoons, and explosives. Once cornered, pods are surrounded with nets as capture teams search through the terrified groups for young, attractive animals. As those selected are violently taken, remaining family members often become frantic trying to save them. Many die from shock or injuries. More than half of the dolphins who survive capture die within 90 days.

When Namu, an orca captured off the coast of Canada, was towed to the Seattle Public Aquarium in a steel cage, her family followed for miles.

ADAPTING TO AN ALIEN WORLD

In nature, orcas and dolphins are always on the move, swimming up to 100 miles a day. They spend only 10-20 percent of their time on the water's surface and can hold their breath for as long as 30 minutes, diving to depths of more than 1,640 feet.

In captivity, orcas and dolphins are restricted by their tank or enclosure, which can measure a mere 24 feet by 24 feet wide and six feet deep. Captive orcas and dolphins spend more than half of their time swimming in small circles or simply lying motionless on the surface of the water. Experts believe that this may account for the collapsed dorsal fins seen on the majority of captive orcas.

Chlorine, copper and other harsh chemicals are used to disinfect animal wastes and keep the water clear. Animals suffer burning eyes, peeling skin and can even die from fluctuating or

A chlorinated tank, without ocean tides or other sea creatures is an abnormal environment for a dolphin. Their sonar bounces back at them from concrete walls. They have to swim in endless circles. Instead of chasing live prey all day, they eat dead fish dumped from a bucket.

A CRUEL TRICK

In order to force newly captured dolphins and orcas to perform inane circus tricks, trainers must first obtain complete control over them by taking advantage of the captive dolphins' powerless predicament. Food deprived animals quickly learn that only when they perform a desired behavior, such as waving at the audience or tail walking, do they get to eat. Isolating animals who refuse to perform is another common training method. Former dolphin trainer Doug Cartledge maintains that highly social dolphins are punished by being isolated from other animals: "You put them in a pen and ignore them. It's like psychological torture."

excessive chemicals. Former dolphin trainer Ric O'Barry, who trained dolphins for the television show "Flipper," believes excessive chlorine has caused some dolphins to go blind.

CAPTIVITY'S TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES

In the ocean dolphins can live to be 50 years old. But, more than half of all dolphins at Sea World and other marine parks die within the first two years of captivity; the remaining dolphins live an average of only five years. Orcas, who can live up to 90 years, rarely survive more than 10 years in captivity. Common causes of death include, capture shock, pneumonia, chlorine poisoning, starvation, stress, drowning, and heat. But, to the marine park industry, these facts are accepted as routine operating expenses.



the sad TRUTH

"Captive dolphins have been observed lingering listlessly at the surface, chewing on concrete until they've worn through their teeth and ramming into the sides of their tanks," said Toni Frohoff, a marine mammal behavioral biologist.

Miami Seaquarium has lost 64 of 89 dolphins since 1972. Of those whose age could be determined, more than half died at 10 or younger, including 16 in their first year.

