

Aquariums and Marine Parks. *PETA*,

[www.peta.org/issues/animals-in-entertainment/zoos-pseudo-sanctuaries/aquariums-marine-parks/](http://www.peta.org/issues/animals-in-entertainment/zoos-pseudo-sanctuaries/aquariums-marine-parks/)

. Throughout this blog post, it dealt a lot with the treatments of the different animals. It explained the complications of having animals in a unnatural habitat. The blog post didn't talk about anything else really, not about the trainers, or the training for it. It had just stuck with the problems in captivity.

1. Orcas and other dolphins navigate by echolocation, but in pools, the reverberations from their own sonar bounce off the walls, which can drive them insane. World-renowned oceanographer Jean-Michel Cousteau compared the keeping of orcas in tanks to “a person being blindfolded in a jail cell.”
2. Aquariums and marine-mammal theme parks like SeaWorld, the Miami Seaquarium and Canada's Marineland are part of a billion-dollar industry built on the suffering of intelligent, social beings who are denied everything that is natural and important to them.

Carmody, Sean. *Last Chance for Animals - Marine Parks*,

[www.lcanimal.org/index.php/campaigns/animals-in-entertainment/marine-parks](http://www.lcanimal.org/index.php/campaigns/animals-in-entertainment/marine-parks).

In this article, it explained every basic overview of the process that went on from capturing the animals to training them, the trainers and how life in a little tank for these poor lonely animals. There was information on animal pods, orca mothers travel in pods for safety reasons and capturing any one member from the pod can be dangerous for that one member and all the other ones. Many pod members follow the boat for miles, hoping to reconnect with the taken member. Marine animal lifespans in the wild are longer but in comparison to how short it is in captivity.

- Each pod has its own dialect, which members use to communicate with one another and which they remember even after years in captivity.
- Stress-related deaths are common. Some animals even commit suicide by crashing into the side of the tank repeatedly, therein shattering their skulls. Others are given anti-depressants so that the audience will not see their despair.

“How do aquariums treat marine mammals?” *PETA*,

[www.peta.org/about-peta/faq/how-do-aquariums-treat-marine-mammals/](http://www.peta.org/about-peta/faq/how-do-aquariums-treat-marine-mammals/).

This article was fairly short but packed with essential points on how the marina animals are treated while in captivity. The article noted about the different animals, how they live before captivity and how their life becomes during captivity. I trust PETA as a website, they specialize in helping animals.

- While the aquarium industry claims that it exists purely for education and conservation, what aquariums really teach is that it is acceptable to keep animals in captivity, bored, cramped, lonely, far from their natural homes, and at the mercy of people.
- There are countless ways to educate the public and cultivate respect for animals without imprisoning dolphins and whales—it's time to put the focus on teaching visitors how to protect marine life rather than harm it.

“10 Things You Didn't Know About SeaWorld.” *SeaWorld of Hurt*,  
[www.seaworldofhurt.com/features/ten-things-didnt-know-seaworld/](http://www.seaworldofhurt.com/features/ten-things-didnt-know-seaworld/).

Instead of having to read another article, there was a list of information in chronological order. The source is a website that is there to educate the public about the wrongs of marine parks. The list noted heartbreaking things such as making the orcas force breed, making the orca mothers to breed with her sons sperm. Also making young female orcas breed at such a young age, it puts risk to them. This list repeated some information I had previously read from the other websites.

- SeaWorld has the financial means and ability to create coastal sanctuaries, where the orcas would have a more natural and less stressful life and where they could feel the tides and waves; see, sense, and communicate with their wild relatives and other ocean animals; and engage in other natural behavior that they are now denied. However, the park instead chooses to stick with the same inhumane business model that it has used for 50 years, despite all the violent and deadly incidents and evidence of harm.
- Male orcas are trained to float on their backs, and their trainers masturbate them to collect their sperm. Females are artificially inseminated and forced to breed at a much younger age than they would in nature. Katina is used as a virtual breeding machine and is even

being inbred with her own sons.

“Will Malia die of her painful infections like so many orcas before her?”, *SeaWorld of Hurt*

<https://www.seaworldofhurt.com/will-malia-die-of-a-painful-infection-like-so-many-orcas-before-her/>

More than half of orca deaths are caused by infections. Malia is possibly going to die because of painful infections on the body. Medical doctor, Dr. Jeffrey Ventre, who was also a former SeaWorld trainer had said “When I saw the image of her today, as a physician, it immediately reminded me of end stage AIDS.”, this was because she was subjected to rape by SeaWorld terms. It is often kept secret because SeaWorld doesn’t want the public to know that they rape their female orcas.

- Even during her painful sickness, SeaWorld San Diego subjected her to rape via artificial insemination, making her carry a baby to full term. (Kasatka)
- Kasatka had been plagued by a bacterial lung infection since at least 2008 and her ailing body was covered with lesions before her death.

“Keto and Tilikum express the stress of orca captivity”, John Jett Phd & Jeffrey Ventre MD

<https://www.scribd.com/document/47286597/Keto-Tilikum-Express-the-Stress-of-Orca-Captivity>

In Jett and Ventre’s article, they incorporate their personal knowledges of being former senior SeaWorld trainers. They speak about all of the different orcas, and how they deal with stress, which isn’t positive. Teeth breaking leading to bacteria. Unnatural amounts of antibiotics. When the both say points, they back it up with a lot of information, personal experience information and information in their research.

- While orca captivity generates large profits for companies like Sea World (SW), life in a shallow concrete tank is greatly impoverished compared to the lives of their free-ranging

counterparts.

- As a result, social strife is common in captivity, including aggression, in which whales are cut, raked, and rammed, usually by members higher on the social ladder. In one particularly brutal example, Kandu V, a female orca at SeaWorld of California (SWC), bled to death after 11.9 years (4332 days) in captivity when an artery was severed at the upper jaw.

(interview) Jeffrey Ventre, Medical Doctor, Former SeaWorld trainer

- 1. When and how did you first hear of Orca captivity?

As a young kid I was given the Nat Geo book "Namu: Making Friends With a Killer Whale," which was published in 1973, so in 1973 or soon thereafter

- 2. If you had to describe orcas in captivity and how humans play a part in it, how horrible is it?

I have described orcas in captivity with over 100 blog articles, several peer reviewed journal articles & a University book chapter. It's pretty horrible. Humans participate intrinsically based on how our socioeconomic system works. Capitalism is a system that leads to the commodification of resources, animals and people. It places the value of money over animals or humans.

- 3. What do you think should be done with large parks like SeaWorld?

They should diversify their product. Move away from cruel captivity and focus more on animation, IMAX, coasters & animal rehab and rescue

- 4. What do you think of SeaWorld employees telling lies to guests?

It's part of a culture that began decades ago. When I was a trainer we were given "PR" lessons. It was a way for the company to train us to "lie" using misleading language that cherry picked science to make captivity seem better than it is

- 5. Is there anything that you have done personally with orcas, or research behind them that gave you new information. In other words, anything that you know but the internet might not?

Here are links to some of that work:

## [Dr. Ventre's research](#)

“An investigation into the oral health of captive orca whales is raising serious concerns about the health and welfare of these majestic creatures. Out of boredom and frustration, many of the whales turn to chewing on concrete and steel tank surfaces, causing wear and tear that leads to further problems.”

- 6. How should the public do to help the issue, explain?

The public needs to not purchase tickets to companies that incarcerate sentient animals for profit.

- 7. What are your comments against people that support this cause and think that it is okay.

Most folks that support captivity are misinformed. Others lack the ability to think critically or have empathy. Some are pathetic defenders of captivity at all costs, similar to how some folks in the USA will defend a particular political party at all costs, such as on the issue of gun control

- 8. How was the Blackfish filming experience like?

It was great. Most of the former trainers in the film, including myself, Carol Ray, John Jett, Samantha Berg, and Dean Gomersall were already very good friends. Getting together with Gabriela Cowperthwaite and her film crew was fun and in a special location, San Juan Island, WA, USA

- 9. How do you see Orcas in 20 years if this behavior continues?

The only orca population that is endangered is the Southern Resident orcas, the ones SeaWorld decimated from 1964 to 1976 via collections. These same whales are having a tough time recovering from those collections because they now don't have enough fish due to dams on the Snake and Columbia Rivers. If the four lower Snake River Dams are not dewatered (breached), I believe this particular group will go extinct in your lifetime.

- 10. Do you think orcas should go back into the wild even if they have been in captivity for awhile?

No. But they can be cared for in a sea pen or ocean sanctuary and provided care by humans

- Also, have you done any protesting?

I have participated in "Empty The Tanks" protest in Seattle. It is coming up again on May 12, I believe. Check it out on the internet. I have also spoken at a "Free the Snake" Event near the Lower Granite Dam in Eastern WA, USA

- - I would love if you were to just go on about any other things that are very important!

I think that the younger generation is the most informed generation of all. So continue to ask these questions. Continue to hold adults accountable. We are currently on an unsustainable course, ecologically, that threatens the very continuation of most species on the planet, including humans. Without radical change, we're going to face some harsh but simple ecological realities soon. We are currently in a state human population overshoot. This means there are more humans on the planet than the biosphere can continue to support. Capitalism itself needs to be re-envisioned. We cannot continue to consume the planet and it's resources. Thanks for these great questions

Agent of Change

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“What's Killing the Orcas at SeaWorld?” *San Antonio Express-News*, 13 June 2016,

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Jeremy B White San Francisco. “Florida Moves to Ban Captive Orca Shows and Breeding.” *The Independent*, Independent Digital News and Media, 13 Jan. 2018,

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/florida-orca-ban-breeding-captivity-seaworld-a8156456.html>