

Persuasive letter – Whales in captivity

14 Dunbar Drive
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Date: 12/01/2021

Re: Killer whales in captivity

Dear Sea Parks,

I would like to complain about your policy of keeping killer whales (orcas) in captivity for entertainment purposes at your venues. I strongly feel that you are not only breaching the most basic of animal rights by keeping the whales in your pools but also believe that you are harming them in the process too.

Primarily, killer whales are very large animals that, by their very nature, need vast room to swim and hunt within. It is a well-known fact that they can swim up to 100 miles a day whilst in the wild and I believe that you are restricting this instinct by holding them in small pools at your parks. As a result, this must frustrate the whales and so will cause them stress being held in captivity like this.

Although Sea Parks state that they participate in conservation of orcas and the world-wide breeding project, in my opinion, making the whales perform to audiences on a daily basis is a cruel practice and one that you should be deeply ashamed about. Killer whales were not born to perform and should not need to be bribed to do the tricks that you ask of them. Would you enjoy being made to perform for food on a daily basis? Would this not be humiliating? I ask that you think carefully about the impact that these shows have on the whales' lives and put yourself in their shoes for a moment or two to consider how they must be feeling every single day.

Finally, I was shocked to find out recently that whales living in captivity typically live shorter lives than those in the wild. A shorter lifespan obviously reduces the chances of a successful breeding program, which means that your method of 'conservation' is surely flawed. It is not right that you are allowed to be involved in affecting the whales' lengths of life in this way.

In summary, I believe that you need to stop your shameful practice and release the whales back into the wild as soon as possible. It is outrageous that you have been allowed to get away with this for such a long time and I will do all I can to help ensure the safe release of the whales back into their natural habitat.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny P". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jenny Pierce