

Circus or? Conservation?



Doesn't this look like old circus tricks now banned in many cities?

These research captives were taken from their moms in the wild when they were only 2 weeks old. Twenty Steller Sea lions were captured in addition to 6 Fur seals. When on display the hungry animals do these demeaning tricks for unnatural dead food. Aquarium presents dangerous messages such as laughing at kissing a sea lion! After the show, some people asked if they are that friendly in the wild. In the wild sea lions don't kiss people, wave at people and stand on their fore flippers.

The “Conservation” Experiments

In July 1993, the first five Steller Sea Lions were cruelly abducted from their mothers when they were only 2 weeks old. The original research application did not include the Aquarium display. The captures circumvented US regulations by capturing and conducting the experiments in Canada. UBC approved of the capture of the first five if a release program was developed. That was not done because they said there was “human imprinting” – but that was the reason for developing deprogramming methods for releases. Two were sent to a zoo in the Netherlands and two were sent to a lab in Alaska. “Tag” died in 2008 following years of mouth problems that may have been a result of cribbing (biting fences and bars).

The Psychological Suffering

They are confined to small pens when not on display or during experiments. They are food deprived (hungry), confined in an enclosed metabolic chamber and forced to do swim-mill tests. They are shocked by perimeter fence wires if they try look over the wall to determine to source of adjacent dolphin/human sounds. (Metabolic Chamber on p 6 **REPORT**).

The Physical Suffering

In March 2009 a Lifeforce investigator took numerous photos of large painful wounds on the back, under the fore flippers and cuts on the back. No response from Aquarium or UBC. It could be caused by the large harness that strapped onto them (IHarness on pg. 8 **REPORT**)



Here is a link re: a meeting about experiments with various species. It was held in Vancouver and the US Navy participated because they are interested in sea lion "training" for military use. The report stated "impossible to accurately compare" captive animals to wild ones. It was proposed to get the max out of captives – max lucrative research grants. On pg. 12 researchers joke about the restraint methods by lying in the cage with two sea lions standing by. **REPORT**:

<http://www.marinemammal.org/pdfs/MM%20in%20the%20Lab%20Workshop2008.pdf>

One cannot extrapolate the results from “test tube” captive studies to complex wildlife ecology problems. The Alaskan sea lions may be declining but they are studying the stable BC population. The food-related energy costs of pinnipeds in the wild differ from captives who depend on selected food and controlled feeding. Oxygen consumption measurements are questionable due to the increased levels of the stressed sea lions.

Field studies that include observations of wild sea lion behaviour are conducted . All of the pieces of the puzzle are not needed. To solve the so-called “puzzle” takes common sense – wildlife populations are threatened because humans are depleting fish stocks and polluting the environment.

For further information: www.lifeforcefoundation.org



Aquariums Tricks

In spite of the Aquarium's pr "research" talk it is still a cruel circus. The true natural lives are not compared to the stark reality of life in captivity. In captivity their social and behavioural needs are not provided. Aquariums cannot even come close to the beautiful ecosystems in the wild – their space to swim and dive, their natural variety of food and foraging, their social structures and much more.

In the Wild

They don't kiss people, wave goodbye to people (although they would like to) and they don't stand on fore flippers. No cued tricks for hungry sea lions to get dead food.

Experiment and Release

Marine wildlife is innately wild by nature. Even if they are kept for long periods or born in captivity they still retain their natural instincts to be free.

The first five were captured in Canada to avoid US laws. As part of the UBC Animal Care Committee, part of the study was to develop release protocols for rehabilitation and release. But as typical of the captivity and research industry they said the sea lions were "imprinted" by the trainers – that was why the deprogramming was to be done.

See Lifeforce Videos: Sea lions in the wild and in captivity at

www.lifeforcefoundation.org

Sea lions: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a JsWK9 rhY>

Dolphins: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYKAnB5V -c>

DON'T BE TRICKED AGAIN! A \$120 Million expansion is mainly your tax monies being spent on more animal captives and prisons.

**Vancouver Banned Exotic Animal Acts in Circuses –
Van Aqua Circus Continues!**

THE SHOW MUST NOT GO ON!

**Tell the City of Vancouver Councillors and Park
Commissioners to Stop the Expansion!**

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