

NEWS RELEASE

Re: Life in a Toilet Bowl for Captive Belugas

“First, imagine spending your entire life in a bathroom. That’s a fair comparison for belugas imprisoned in an aquarium pool and deprived of ocean freedom”, stated Peter Hamilton, Founder of ecology organization Lifeforce, “Then add to that cruelty that they will be swimming around and around and around in toxic feces and urine. It’s very sad that another beluga has been sentenced to life in a toilet bowl.”

While humans gawk at the new baby on display the oldest female and the father are locked up in behind the scenes. Life can be even worst in that small, barren research pool. They are surrounded by penned sea lions and fur seals who are used in questionable experiments. Qila and Tiqa were also “temporarily” separated.



Overcrowding is a sympathy ploy for further expansions. The present one is estimated up from \$80 million to \$120 million. More parkland means more captives. There has been no construction so far to meet the 2010 Olympic deadline. With time running out -will the poor economy finally end aquarium expansions? Lifeforce hopes so.

In 1988 the Aquarium and Parks Board stated that the new pool then would be for the three belugas but when one died they captured 3 more. Lifeforce predicted aggression problems and some were inhumanely housed in the approx. 50’ square research pool out of public view. One male was eventually transferred to a US Sea World.

The behavioural and social needs of belugas cannot be provided for in captivity. And they must perform stupid tricks, such as spitting at people, on cue for unnatural dead food. Captivity can result in psychological and physical harm. In the wild they migrate, live together in complex social groups, and forage for a diversity of food.

See Lifeforce videos:

Belugas Far From Home: http://www.lifeforcefoundation.org/ecotv_play.php?id=25

Dolphin Freedom Not Captivity: http://www.lifeforcefoundation.org/ecotv_play.php?id=38

As a result of the Vancouver Aquarium pro-captivity policy there has been at least 35 dolphin deaths since 1964. As of June 2009 at least 9 orcas, 7 narwhals, 7 Belugas, and 12 Pacific white-sided dolphins have died. <http://www.lifeforcefoundation.org/files/35REASONSFINALVERSION1.pdf> (Note: There may also have been some porpoises who died. Presently the porpoise, “Daisy”, is inhumanely kept in a tank awaiting her fate- http://www.lifeforcefoundation.org/ecotv_play.php?id=37)

Bacterial infections are a common cause of death in captive dolphins. Pneumonia, which is generally brought about by some other condition, such as stress or a compromised immune system, is the most commonly cited cause of death in the US National Marine Fisheries Service's Marine Mammal Inventory Reports. Captives are routinely given antibiotics and ulcer medication. Most captives die prematurely.

“Boycotting the Aquarium captive dolphin programs will give this baby and mom some privacy. Watch a live video from the Aquarium theatre or at home. Even Whale Watch Tours give moms and babies at least a 100 metre boundary. Boycotting this aquarium circus would also help stop the future exploitation of other dolphins,” added Hamilton. (Note: Even Murray Newman, Founding Director, called it “a wild animal circus which was full-time.”)

For further Information: Peter Hamilton lifeforcesociety@hotmail.com or 604-649-5258. Please note that Liferforce is presently conducting our Marine Life Programs on the water but will try to respond as soon as possible.