

SEEN BLACKFISH? NOW HELP CAPTIVE ORCAS

Save The Whales is against orcas and dolphins in captivity. Go to www.savethewhales.org and then to Take Action.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

-**SEE BLACKFISH**, the documentary about orcas in captivity. It exposes the truth about the ugly issue of captivity. Show it for friends, classmates, at clubs and then Take Action.

-**BOYCOTT** marine amusement parks with captive orcas and dolphins or other establishments that exploit them for human amusement. Encourage and educate friends and family about the cruelty of captivity and the conditions these animals endure.

-**WRITE LETTERS** to The Blackstone Group that owns SeaWorld and email us a copy of your letter for Save The Whales website.

-**MAKE A STATEMENT** for the orcas. Teachers, environmental clubs, families, office staff, church groups and students can get involved by being creative: make signs, a video or artwork and take a photo to make your statement about orcas in captivity. Email your photo to us with the name of school, club, business, and with the city, state and grade level of your school. We will post selected entries on facebook/website.

The message can be simple such as **NO Orca Captivity** or it can request the Freedom of specific orcas such as **FREE Corky**, **FREE Lolita**, or **FREE Morgan**.



Los Angeles, CA students show their support to FREE Corky the orca who was captured from her family in British Columbia. Corky is in SeaWorld San Diego.

Save The Whales ♦ A California Nonprofit Organization ♦ Founded in 1977

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The Truth About Orca Captivity

With the release of the documentary, *Blackfish*, the public has an opportunity like never before to see what captivity really means for the orcas in marine amusement parks. The director Gabriela Cowperthwaite started work on the film after the death of Dawn Brancheau, a trainer at SeaWorld, Orlando, FL. Ms Brancheau was killed by the orca Tilikum during a performance. Different scenarios have been advanced as to how and why this happened. The sad truth is Ms. Brancheau is dead and Tilikum, taken from his mother in Iceland at the age of 2, has had his already curtailed and solitary life abbreviated even more.

FACTS:

- Orcas, or killer whales, are the largest member of the dolphin family. In the wild, they live in complex and cohesive family groups called pods. The pods are matriarchally-structured and few animals stray from their natal matriline or mother line.

- Resident orcas have a unique system of vocal dialects. Each clan has an explicit dialect, and each pod uses distinct calls. These calls are believed to transfer information and help toward group unity. When orcas are living in aquaria, it is unlikely that they are with an orca from their family group, and so they do not understand each other's language.

- In their natural habitat, they may travel 100 miles in a day, all the while swimming and breaching, feeding, tending to their young, socializing with pod members or with another pod they encounter in their travels.

- No aquaria can come close to matching their lives in their natural environment, or as Dr. Paul Spong, founder of Orca Lab, said:

"What orcas are displaying in these tanks is a caricature of the real orca - almost a shadow - when you consider what the orca is like in the ocean."

Save The Whales has joined with other organizations from around the world to stop the captivity of orcas.

The most famous imprisoned orcas are Corky, Lolita and Tilikum. Their stories of capture at an early age and their decades of captivity. Keiko, the star of the "Free Willy" movies, was an attempt to put an orca back into the wild and it failed for numerous reasons. His story is <http://savethewhales.org/captivity.html>

Dolphins have been returned to the wild or escaped from their captors and lived successfully in their natural habitat, the ocean.

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