

Arguments FOR captivity	Arguments AGAINST captivity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can get valuable scientific knowledge about the animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research in the captive environment involves studying animals in a false environment so how valuable can the findings be to the species?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easier to get blood samples that may be used to develop tests to help other animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs are regularly used to help control the dolphins' behaviour and health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase population sizes through breeding programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captive dolphins are not bred for conservation purposes. The vast majority of dolphinariums are not releasing dolphins into the wild but trying to increase their stocks of captive dolphins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If pairs of dolphins are able to successfully breed then they must be happy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breeding in captivity is not very successful and dolphinariums often resort to artificial insemination. Also breeding is not a sign of happiness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captive born cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) are happy in captivity because that's where they were born and they are domesticated. They are no longer wild and therefore do not have the same needs and desires as wild cetaceans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even those that are born in captivity are not thought to be much better off as they are still wild animals and have not been 'domesticated' like cats and dogs, but rather just 'trained' • Not all of the animals that perform in captivity were born there. Often they are taken from the wild by a cruel catching method called 'drive hunts' • Some wild populations are already in a weak position so when the drive hunts (and other capture operations) target the young and fit to capture, this can put the whole group at risk • They are also at risk when switched between facilities which show that they never get used to being transported and always find it extremely stressful • Captive-born orcas (killer whales) do not survive any better than those captured in the wild

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can run educational programs, especially for children that will increase their awareness of the animals and their environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displays at marine parks can distort the public's understanding of the marine environment • They have very little space in order to swim the amount of mileage that they normally would - no tank will ever be big enough to replicate their natural environment • When not performing they are often held in even smaller tanks • The tricks performed are not natural behaviour for the dolphins and therefore not educational • They do not get to live in their natural, complex social groups when in captivity • May share a tank with another species of cetacean (whales, dolphins and porpoises) that they are unable to communicate with or would never normally meet and not get on with
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals in captivity will not be at risk from the same threats as wild populations e.g. oil spills, boat strike, marine litter and so can live longer lives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very often, a bad conservation message is delivered - rather than agreeing that marine parks are "saving" animals from the threats and challenges that they face in the wild, perhaps we should be focusing on tackling some of these threats themselves? • They live shorter lives in captivity • Transporting the animals immediately after capture is thought to increase their chances of dying by 6 times • Tank water has the chemical chlorine added to it to keep it clean, but this may be bad for the animal's health and cause sores on its skin • Some animals have to take part in several shows a day and in between times they attend training sessions so are not getting enough rest • Some may be at risk from aggression from others and get injured • Animals may be affected by stress a large portion of the time that they are held in captivity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dolphins smile so this shows that they are happy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dolphins are not smiling. They cannot move their facial muscles to show feelings the way that humans do • Families are split apart and it is thought that cetaceans may be able to grieve i.e. feel sad at the loss of a friend or family member • The tanks that they are forced to live in are bare and offer no mental stimulation to the animals. This is because the chemically treated water is not suitable for any other animal or plant life to grow and survive in it

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cetaceans must be happy if they are willing to perform tricks - surely that's a sign of them having fun? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is doubtful that cetaceans perform for fun, but more so because they get fed after every trick that they do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donate some of the money made at dolphinariums to research and conservation of wild populations (a trained bottlenose dolphin can generate \$1 million a year). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A very, very small amount of the money that is made at marine parks is actually put into worthwhile conservation programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies can be made on the animals' milk content to develop artificial milk that can be used to feed orphans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The young whales and dolphins (calves) that are caught are often still too young to be taken from their mothers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives people a guaranteed opportunity to see cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) - more chance of people then caring about these animals and wanting to help them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can simply showing the animals or making them do tricks really be classed as conservation?
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping orcas in captivity helped to change a bad impression that fishermen had of them. They used to be seen as competitors for fish and shot on sight, but as public interest in them grew, laws to protect them came into force. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness and public interest as well as studying wild populations can lead to the protection of cetaceans • Some animals are kept in isolation - there are currently 4 orcas held in isolated captivity

WHALE AND
DOLPHIN
CONSERVATION

