



ENDCAP

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DOLPHINARIA FACT SHEET

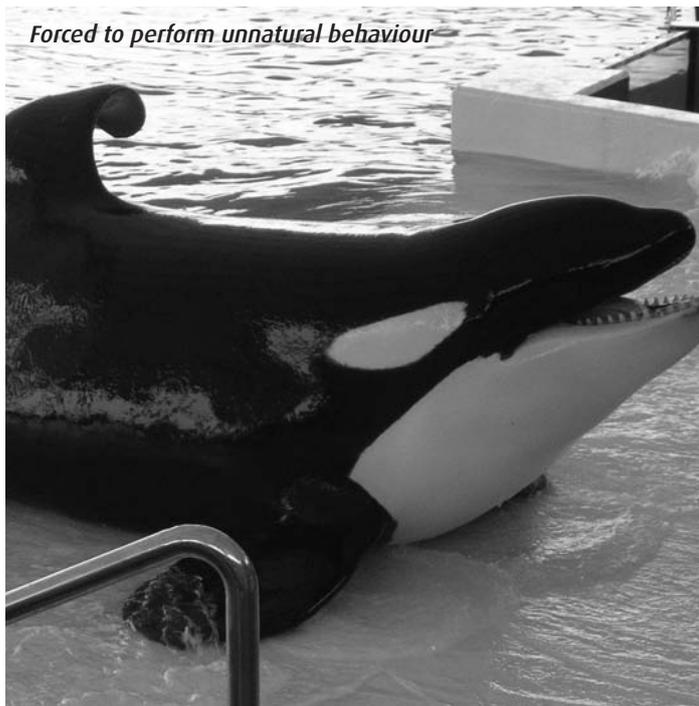
Dolphins and other cetaceans (whales, and porpoises) have been held in captivity in Europe since the 1960s.

At least 58 dolphinariums operate in Europe, thought to hold hundreds of individual animals between them. Species displayed include bottlenose dolphins, orcas, belugas and harbour porpoises. The individual animals held include those captured in the wild, as well as those born in captivity.

Introduction

Dolphins are very intelligent, self-aware animals. Wild dolphins live in complex social groups, with some species retaining family bonds for life. Wild dolphins are far-ranging, fast-moving, deep-diving predators, swimming up to 100km or more a day.

In captivity dolphins suffer a reduced life expectancy and have higher rates of infant mortality than in the wild. Captive facilities compare little to the vast, complex environment of a wild dolphin and even the largest facilities offer just a fraction of a dolphin's wild range. Research indicates that the stress of confinement often results in behavioural abnormalities, illness, decreased resistance to disease and premature death.



Forced to perform unnatural behaviour

BFF

Captive dolphins in Europe

Country	Number of facilities
Belgium	1
Bulgaria	1
Denmark	1
Finland	1
France	2
Germany	4
Italy	8
Lithuania	1
Malta	1
The Netherlands	1
Portugal	2
Romania	1
Spain	10
Sweden	1
Switzerland	1
Turkey	at least 8
Ukraine	at least 8

EU CITES Legislation

- Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 implements CITES in the European Union and bans the import for primarily commercial purposes of species listed in Annex A, which includes all dolphins and other cetaceans.
- However, an import permit can be issued for breeding purposes that will benefit the conservation of the species or research or education purposes aimed at the conservation of the species. Dolphins continued to be imported into the EU under these provisions.

National legislation

- There is concern that dolphinariums in Europe are not meeting their requirements under the EU Zoo directive, including in terms of holding animals under conditions which aim to satisfy their biological and conservation requirements and in terms of research, education and conservation.
- Only some countries in Europe have legislation specific

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EUROPE'S FORGOTTEN ANIMALS

to the keeping of dolphins in captivity, including Belgium, which prohibits the construction of new dolphinariums and Italy, whose legislation prohibits dolphin interaction programmes.

Welfare concerns

- Suffer extreme mental and physical stress
- Experience higher rates of infant mortality and reduced survival rate.
- Live in an environment whose scale and complexity is drastically reduced compared to their natural environment.
- The number of animals sharing a pool is often high and subject to frequent change.
- The water in which they are kept is treated with host of chemicals to stave off disease.
- They are made to perform unnatural behaviour in shows or forced to interact with people in swimming with dolphins and other interaction programmes.

Welfare problems caused by swim-with interactions

- The dolphins have no choice but to interact with humans. Many facilities hold dolphins used in swim-with programmes in small enclosures, often without refuge opportunities away from public view. Captive bottlenose dolphins have been known to show signs of alarm during swim-with programmes.
- It is not uncommon for dolphins to participate in numerous swim-with programmes throughout the day, as well as participating in performances and photographic opportunities.
- Many dolphins used in interaction programmes have been captured from the wild. Methods of capture and transport of dolphins can be extremely cruel and many dolphins die of shock in the process.

Conservation issues

- Captive breeding is not meeting the demands of the dolphinarium industry or the premature deaths caused.
- Dolphins are still captured from the wild to meet this demand.
- Methods used to capture dolphins can present a significant risk to the health and welfare of the wild pods, with many individuals dying during capture and transportation.
- The impact of a capture extends well beyond the individuals taken. According to the IUCN's (World Conservation Union) Cetacean Specialist Group, '[r]emoval of live cetaceans from the wild, for captive display and/or research, is equivalent to incidental or deliberate killing, as the animals brought into captivity (or killed during capture operations) are no longer

available to help maintain their populations. When unmanaged and undertaken without a rigorous program of research and monitoring, live-capture can become a serious threat to local cetacean populations'.

Trade legislation

- CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora, monitors trade in dolphins and other cetaceans.
- Most dolphin species, including bottlenose dolphins, orcas and belugas are listed on CITES' Appendix II, listing species that 'are not necessarily now threatened with extinction but may become so unless trade is closely controlled'.
- International trade in dolphins requires an export permit, issued when a Party is satisfied that the trade will not be 'detrimental to the survival of the species'. In reality, in many countries, the process for determining any detriment is far from thorough.
- For example, there currently exists no 'non-detriment finding' for Cuban dolphins and preliminary documents contain no population estimates and no stock structure data.

ENDCAP campaigns against the keeping of dolphins and whales in captivity in Europe, but looks to Europe in the short term to ensure Member States recognise the limitations and inadequacy of captive facilities for these species, and ensure as a minimum they are licensed and inspected under the EU Zoos Directive.



Captive Dolphins can suffer extreme mental stress

WDCS

EUROPE'S FORGOTTEN ANIMALS