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### Marine life captivity at SeaWorld

Humans use animal cruelty to force wildlife to act a certain way or to perform in a way they normally would not. Invading an animal's environment to capture and take wildlife to small, enclosed spaces is a harsh form of treatment that can cause animals to become aggressive towards people and other wildlife. Animal cruelty is a nationwide problem that is growing in today's contemporary world. From capturing animals, to not feeding them, to breeding the wildlife in their early years, it all goes back to torturing a living thing. One of the most common animal cruelty facilities is SeaWorld. SeaWorld employees neglect the marine life, breeds the orcas at a young age, and starve them until they perform abnormal tricks for an audience. People tend to be apathetic and do not take into consideration the emotions and psychological stress that at these animals face by being trapped and mistreated. Wildlife should not be taken away from their environment just for the entertainment and amusement of humans. They should be able to live their life freely and not be held captive for any establishments such as aquariums or zoos.

Animals are placed in unsanitary conditions without food in order for them to perform unnatural acts in front of an audience. SeaWorld is a prime example of a touristic place that has been criticized in the media for animal cruelty. The dolphins and orcas that are held in captivity tend to display psychological stress for being kept in a small tank and have altercations with other wildlife and employees due to being in an enclosed area. According to Casey Weed's

article, *The World Beyond SeaWorld*, “ Capturing and raising cetacea in captivity not only threatens the lives of the animals, but has been linked to the avoidable deaths of several humans as well, an occurrence unheard of when these creatures are in the wild” (Pg. 284). The marine life at SeaWorld tend to become aggressive towards the trainers because they feel boredom due to being in a confined space and are forced to perform unusual acts. The orcas injure or kill the trainer because they are stressed from the torture they are receiving, such as being underfed, bred with their family members and lack of proper care. In *Dolphins, Captivity and SeaWorld*, an article written by Thomas White, states that, “ Cetaceans emerge as non- human persons who, in captivity, live in conditions that make it impossible for them to thrive or flourish” (Pg. 128). Cetacea are capable of swimming hundreds of miles daily, so keeping them in an enclosed area gives them no freedom to swim as much as they would if they were in their natural habitat. Due to swimming in small circles, orcas often get broken dorsal fins and broken teeth. This leads to the orcas, dolphins and other sea life to have a shorter lifespan.

SeaWorld employees are unconcerned when it comes to the mistreatment of animals and only care about fulfilling the entertainment needs of the visitors. The people running facilities, such as SeaWorld, threaten animals to perform more tricks to bring a bigger audience and gain more profit. In the article, *Dolphins, Captivity, and SeaWorld*, White states that in the SeaWorld website it claims,” Our commitment to animal care, conservation, rescue and research has advanced the well- being of animals in our parks as well as the wild” (Pg. 120) SeaWorld uses statements such as this one to persuade visitors that animal captivity is not as bad as some people claim it to be. By ignoring the captivity problem, people are forced to believe that they are being taught real information about the wildlife and are also being entertained at the same time with the

shows the cetacea perform. In the media, SeaWorld has been criticized for animal captivity and abuse, so employees use entertainment as a cover up of the mistreatment. These facilities refuse to recognize the problem and put the visitor's entertainment before the rights of animals and the environment. In his article, White states that, "SeaWorld represents itself as a fully committed to scientific integrity, and uses that image to advance a false picture of the nature of dolphins. In reality, SeaWorld's defense of captivity is based on using science as no more than a marketing tool, and represents a lack of intellectual honesty" (Pg. 119) SeaWorld employees put up false images to avoid the mistreatment and harsh conditions of the cetacea. SeaWorld's goal is to keep the audience entertained and mislead them with false information so the audience does not get too involved with knowing the mistreatment of marine life.

SeaWorld is a public place that is an example of facilities that have animal cruelty and captivity. They capture marine life from their environment and place them in a small tank in which they do not have the freedom to swim, be with their family and eat as much as they need. Several problems arise with the captivity and cruelty of wildlife. Orcas and dolphins have a shorter lifespan because it is not natural to keep them in an enclosed area with unsanitary surroundings. Another issue with keeping the cetacea captive is that dolphins and orcas face psychological stress from the mistreatment. This leads the sea life to act aggressive towards the SeaWorld trainers and other sea creatures. Often times the aggression leads to the death of trainers or the cetacea themselves die from the torture of being in captivity. Animals should not be taken away from their natural habitat just for entertainment purposes. This is a huge problem because capturing orcas and dolphins can lead to a decrease in their population in the wild and could potentially cause the extinction of these creatures. This problem is important for people to

understand because people become a part of the problem when they pay to go to facilities, such as SeaWorld. People contribute to the captivity of the marine life by attending the shows in which the orcas perform abnormal tricks. Also, capturing animals not only affect the wildlife, but it also has a negative effect on the wildlife's natural habitat. Animals should be able to keep their freedom and live a longer life instead of being held captive and have a shorter lifespan.

## Works cited

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