



# Vimeo: Training and Life in Captivity

## Instructor Guide

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### IMMEDIATELY AFTER CAPTURE

- Newly captured dolphins must be force fed and hydrated using a tube that is inserted through the mouth, dolphins have no gag reflex
- Some newly captured dolphins will die from capture shock which is a term used when an animal suffers psycho-physiological effects from fright, anxiety, frustration and apprehension - often causing respiratory and cardiac problems resulting in death
- Capture shock can also affect dolphins who have been held in captivity as boredom and isolation can bring about these same psycho-physiological effects
- Captive dolphins are given medications to help alleviate stress and anxiety, some are given anti-depressants as well as antibiotics
- Some individuals have a greater ability to endure stress than others
- Dolphin Project Cove Monitors have documented cases of dolphins dying from capture shock both during and after the drive hunts and captures

### TRAINING

- Dolphins must first be trained to eat dead fish
- Captive dolphins become completely dependant on humans as their only source of food
- Captive dolphins learn to do unnatural behaviors in order to get a food reward
- Dolphins are fed but kept hungry so that they will be eager to perform for food
- Millions of years of evolution has made dolphins perfectly adapted for life in the ocean, captive dolphins are trained to do behaviors they would never do in the ocean but that will "entertain" humans
- Dolphins are trained to allow humans to perform different types of invasive procedures for life in captivity
- Dolphins must learn to submit to humans in order to stay alive

### AFTER THE SHOW

- Captive dolphins suffer from boredom and depression which can be seen in behaviors such as "logging" when a dolphin floats lifelessly in its tank for long period of time
- Also seen in repetitive stress behaviors, which is defined as a behavior which has no goal being performed over and over such as sliding in and out of the tanks on the slide out used in shows

- Captive dolphins also may engage in self-destructive behavior such as chewing on metal bars in tanks or pulling paint off the inside of their concrete tanks
- There are many examples of captive dolphins ramming themselves into either the concrete or glass walls or metal gates of their tanks; several of these examples resulted in the death of the dolphin
- Dolphin Project Cove Monitors have documented many cases of logging, repetitive stress behaviors as well as self-destructive behaviors in captive dolphins

## HEALTH

- Captive dolphins are susceptible to infection, there are many cases of captive dolphins dying from pneumonia
- Studies show that pneumonia in captive dolphins is often a psycho-physiological effect from the boredom, isolation and frustration of life in captivity
- Dolphins live in unnatural groupings in captivity and certain individuals may be attacked and injured by other dolphins
- While these attacks also happen in the wild, the lack of an escape in captivity magnifies the effects of these attacks
- There are cases of death being caused by attacks from tankmates in captivity
- It is impossible to replicate the conditions that wild dolphins live in and many captive dolphins are unable to adapt to the conditions they must endure in captivity
- Dolphin Project Cove Monitors have documented many cases of injuries sustained by captive dolphins as a result of attacks from other dolphins