

Persuasive letter – Whales in captivity

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Date: 12/01/2014

Re: Killer whales in captivity

Dear Sea Parks,

I am writing to complain about your policy of keeping killer whales in captivity for entertainment purposes at your venues. I strongly feel that you are not only breaching the most basic of animal rights by keeping the whales in your pools but also believe that you are harming them in the process too.

Killer whales are very large animals that, by their very nature, need vast room to swim and hunt within. It is a well-known fact that they can swim up to 100 miles a day whilst in the wild and I believe that you are restricting this instinct by holding them in small pools at your parks. Surely it must frustrate the whales and cause them stress being held in captivity like this.

In my opinion, making the whales perform to audiences on a daily basis is a cruel practice and one that you should be deeply ashamed about. Killer whales were not born to perform and should not need to be bribed to do the tricks that you ask of them. Would you enjoy being made to perform for food on a daily basis? Would this not be humiliating? I ask that you think carefully about the impact that these shows have on the whales' lives and put yourself in their shoes for a moment or two to consider how they must be feeling every single day.

Finally, I was shocked to find out recently that whales living in captivity typically live shorter lives than those in the wild. How do you feel knowing that you are responsible for this? It is not right that you are allowed to be involved in affecting the whales' lengths of life in this way.

In summary, I believe that you need to stop your shameful practice and release the whales back into the wild as soon as possible. It is outrageous that you have been allowed to get away with this for such a long time and I will do all I can to help ensure the safe release of the whales back into their natural habitat.



Jenny Pierce

Comprehension – Persuasive letter, Whales in Captivity

- 1) Find and copy **one word** that informs us of Sea Parks’ purpose for keeping the killer whales.

- 2) Up to how many miles can a killer whale swim per day?

75 miles

125 miles

100 miles

150 miles

- 3) Find and copy **one word** that shows what a whale is not born to do.

- 4) **Draw** lines to match the following words to their definitions:

captivity

To break something.

breaching

Making someone feel embarrassed.

restricting

Put a limit on.

humiliating

Being imprisoned or confined.

- 5) List **three** arguments used by Jenny Pierce to persuade Sea Parks that keeping killer whales in captivity is wrong.

- 6) Tick **one** box to complete this sentence.

Whales living in captivity typically live ...

happier lives.

shorter lives.

healthier lives.

7) Look at paragraph 3. How would Jenny Pierce feel if she was a whale at Sea Parks? **Use evidence** from the text to justify your answer.

8) *By keeping killer whales in captivity, Sea Parks are violating basic animal rights.*

Do you agree with this statement? **Use evidence** from the text to justify your answer.

Yes

No

Yes and no

9) If you were the owner of sea parks, how would you respond to this letter?



A large, empty speech bubble for writing a response.