



DATE: 15.02.2020  
Contact: Sev Avedis +61 439 258 594  
Caddy Piwari +61 439 727 606  
Email: [action@justiceforcaptives.org](mailto:action@justiceforcaptives.org)

## **CONCERNED AUSTRALIANS STAND UP IN UNITY AGAINST ANIMALS USED FOR ENTERTAINMENT AT SEA WORLD ON THE GOLD COAST**

On Saturday 15 February 2020, a group of concerned Australians representing the anti-captivity group, Justice for Captives, legally entered Sea World on the Gold Coast in Queensland and again disrupted the renowned Dolphin show in an effort to continue raising awareness about the cruelty behind using dolphins, seals, polar bears and other marine animals for human entertainment and profit.

Bearing large banners exposing their cause, Justice for Captives targeted the Dolphin Affinity show for the **sixth time over the last four years** in an effort to further draw awareness to the outdated practices.

Sev Avedis, a spokesperson for Justice for Captives states “Anti-captivity actions such as these represent a confronting, yet necessary plea to animal show-goers to look beyond veils of ‘conservation’ and ‘education’, recognising that all forms of animal entertainment come at great cost to the animal themselves.”

Justice for Captives relentlessly pursues highly contentious issues surrounding the divide between animals in entertainment and education in conservation.

Sev further adds “We acknowledge the conservation efforts presented by numerous organisations, but will continue to be the voice behind hundreds of captive animals with their free will removed for profitability.”

“Australia’s wildlife extends beyond the land and deep into the oceans. In a time where we are facing the greatest depletion of native animal species in Australian history, we need to protect these animals in their natural habitats, rather than keeping them confined to noisy artificial environments.”

Justice for Captives are the catalysts behind a continuously changing culture which is ever inspiring to our children. Setting a good example of what is acceptable for the entertainment industry is at the forefront of our concern. We are a peaceful assembly of dedicated and professional Australians from all backgrounds, united by a common goal - to put animal entertainment in the history books.

Sea World has previously acknowledged that the continuum of animal entertainment is necessary to inspire children to fall in love with, and learn about animals. However, if Sea World continues this practice, they are sending the message to young children that animals are ours to use as we please. Based on animal welfare concerns, Justice for Captives firmly disagrees with this archaic and unethical form of human entertainment.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION - ANIMALS USED FOR HUMAN ENTERTAINMENT IN SEA WORLD**

**DOLPHINS:** In the wild, the common bottlenose dolphin can swim up to 70kms a day, playing and hunting amongst hundreds of other dolphins in complex social pod networks and hierarchies. Dolphins also spend approximately 80-90% of their time under deep sea water and have the freedom to make their own choices. In contrast, dolphins at Sea World are housed in small artificial enclosures with compromised family structures, unable to swim in a straight line for long or dive deeply, and they spend approximately 80% of their time at the shallow waters surface, looking for food and attention from their trainers, and waiting for the next close encounter with the public.

For decades humans have been using dolphins and whales for entertainment purposes. However, 17 countries have now banned dolphin captivity, including India who declared dolphins as 'non-human persons' and the most recent being Canada, who banned keeping and breeding these marine mammals in captivity through amendments to the Criminal Code.

Confining dolphins to unnatural environments come at a cost of unimaginable cruelty towards these emotionally sophisticated mammals. Disguising animal cruelty with conservation is a weak attempt at undermining the intelligence of every-day Australians.

*\*Note:* In 1985, the Australian Government enlisted a Senate Select Committee on Animal Welfare to write a [comprehensive report on dolphins and whales in captivity](#). The intent of the report was to target the marine park facilities who were housing dolphins and using them for entertainment purposes. Several dolphin welfare recommendations were proposed by the committee, essentially postulating that it is profoundly unacceptable to capture and house dolphins and use them as commodities for human entertainment. Following these recommendations, all but two dolphinariums in Australia ceased operation. Those remaining are Sea World Australia on the Gold Coast, QLD and Dolphin Marine Magic in Coffs Harbour, NSW.

Justice for Captives invite Sea World to demonstrate a moral responsibility and start retiring all of their performing dolphins as a first step to abolishing the animal-entertainment industry in Australia and have drafted a formal proposal outlining past dolphin-rehabilitation successes.

**SEALS:** Seals are highly intelligent and curious animals - keeping them in unnatural confined pools and dressing them in costumes for human entertainment serves no purpose in education. This practice fundamentally destroys our children's perceptions of wild animal behaviour, and how it is acceptable to treat animals. Australia needs the public to become more involved in correcting Sea Worlds augmented entertainment practices, which is why Justice for Captives have disrupted today's Seal Guardians show. Justice for Captives are calling for the end to using seals in theatrical shows.



**POLAR BEARS:** Polar bears are critically endangered, solitary animals that roam over 30 kilometres per day in the wild, and can swim up to 100kms per day in the ocean. They have a black skin, a thick layer of blubber and a thick fur coat to protect them from the harsh icy conditions in which they are native to. The small, exposed subtropical environment Sea World provides critically compromises the wellbeing of these mammals and severely limits their ability to express their natural behaviours in a natural life. **Justice for Captives are calling on Sea World to retire their polar bears to the world's only polar bear sanctuary - in Canada.**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-09/study-looks-at-creating-sanctuary-for-nsw-captive-dolphins/10093592>

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/sea-world-dolphin-show-sabotaged-by-justice-for-captives-animal-activists-20170211-guanq5.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/7NewsGoldCoast/videos/vb.840702249361798/1179152592183427/?type=2&theater>