

CAMPAIGN REPORT

JULY - OCTOBER 1999

SAFE is New Zealand's animal rights organisation. Since the 1930's SAFE has met the challenge of being the only organisation to hold the scientific community, and the agriculture, entertainment, hunting and cosmetics industries accountable for their unethical treatment of animals. SAFE acts to ensure that animal cruelty is exposed and educates for change.

SAFE is a professional non-profit organisation with offices staffed by dedicated people and supported by both members and volunteers. SAFE undertakes research, provides resources and educational programmes enabling the public to adopt a cruelty free lifestyle.



CETACEANS *in* CAPTIVITY



New Zealand could become the first country in the world to enact legislation to ban the keeping of cetaceans (dolphins, whales and porpoises) in captivity and the capturing of cetaceans for captivity. National list MP Annabel Young has drafted a Private Member's Bill to this effect and with enough public pressure this Bill will be passed. SAFE has been campaigning for many years on this issue and New Zealanders are now aware the only place for cetaceans is in the wild.



New Zealand has a rare chance to start a worldwide trend to end cetacean circuses.

In the wild or captive?

Cetaceans are highly intelligent mammals who have evolved over millions of years in the oceans and rivers of the earth. Sadly, cetaceans are considered a profitable form of entertainment and thousands have been confined to concrete tanks in marine parks around the world. Keeping animals with unique mental abilities and ecological needs has resulted in a high mortality rate, reproductive difficulties (including high numbers of stillbirths) and aberrant behaviour.

Dolphins in the wild have an average lifespan of 30 - 45 years, in comparison to 5.2 years for dolphins in captivity. Half of all the dolphins in captivity die every seven years from such things as capture shock, pneumonia, intestinal disease, ulcers and other stress-related illnesses. In the ocean dolphins can swim up to 100 miles a day and dive to depths of several hundred feet. Captive dolphins literally spend their entire lives in a swimming pool. To a dolphin, it must be akin to being confined in a glass a water!

Dolphins in captivity are trained to perform unnatural 'circus' tricks such as jumping through hoops, ringing bells, balancing balls on their beaks and enduring rides on their backs.

Cetaceans living in the wild have closeknit, complex family structures called pods. The capture process can disrupt the entire pod — the pod is chased into shallow waters and surrounded with nets which lift the dolphins into the boat. The capture of cetaceans for marine parks can truly be said to tear families apart.

International trends

Overseas the tide is turning in favour of cetaceans. In Brazil, it is illegal to use marine mammals for entertainment. In England, strict regulations and consumer boycotts have forced all marine mammal exhibits to close. South Carolina and all States in Australia, except Queensland, have banned all exhibits of cetaceans. All around the world the public, marine scientists and politicians are calling for an end to the inhumane practice of keeping cetaceans in captivity.



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MARINELAND

NEW ZEALAND'S DOLPHIN PRISON

If there is anywhere that is a 'Marine-land' it is the ocean, not a swimming pool with captive dolphins.

Napier's Marineland holds New Zealand's only captive dolphins, Kelly and Shona. Both are female Common dolphins. Since opening in 1965, Marineland has kept 78 dolphins in captivity — only two remain. Most have died only metres from the ocean in which they were born. The average life expectancy of the dolphins at

Marineland is six years. During this time, Marineland offers only confinement, forced circus tricks, dead fish and a constant barrage of human invaders into their imprisoned world.

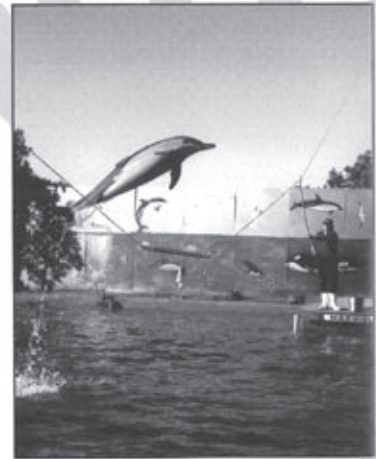
The myths of education

Marineland claims to educate the public about marine wildlife and their conservation yet their facilities offer but a passing gesture to these noble claims. In reality, Marineland with its circus ethic, is a barrier to the public understanding and respecting dolphins. Visitors to Marineland are encouraged to believe humans have the right to capture, confine and force unnatural behaviour upon dolphins for the sake of entertainment.

Risk to dolphins

Marineland offers a *Swim with the dolphins* programme where paying customers are allowed in their pools. Marineland claims this is "perfectly safe" and allows up to 500 people each month to invade the dolphins' inadequate habitat. This can cause further life-threatening stress to these dolphins. Overseas experience has shown *Swim with the dolphins* programmes are far from 'perfectly safe'. During SAFE's investigations we have uncovered major problems with Marineland's *Swim with the dolphins* programme. These include:

- ◆ Department of Conservation (DoC) permits stipulate that an experienced trainer must always be present during swim programmes. Marineland has volunteers who are present for less than half the time of the swim.
- ◆ DoC permits also requires that swim participants must be informed in writing of the potential risks of injury or disease transmission. Participants have been told there is absolutely no danger.



SUPPORTING SAFE'S CAMPAIGN WHAT YOU CAN DO?

- ◆ Send SAFE's 'Born Free' postcards to the Minister of Conservation and to your local MP asking them to support Annabel Young's Private Member's Bill. For more postcards contact SAFE.
- ◆ Boycott Marineland and tell your friends and family why they should support the ban against keeping cetaceans in captivity.
- ◆ Thousands of dolphins are killed every year by the fishing industry. If you eat fish make sure that it has been caught in a dolphin-friendly manner. Better still, adopt a vegetarian or vegan lifestyle and help to end the suffering of millions of animals every year.
- ◆ Join SAFE as a financial member and become a volunteer. We are the voice for animal rights in New Zealand. The more support we have the more we can speak out.

"Removal of these majestic mammals from the wild for commercial purposes is obscene."

Richard Donner
co-producer, 'Free Willy'

Recent deaths at Marineland

Cassana (d.1998) and Selina (d.1999) are Marineland's most recent dolphin fatalities. SAFE believes the *Swim with the dolphins* programme was a major contributor to their deaths. Reports show Cassana had a history of infections, yet Marineland kept her performing in this stressful environment until she finally succumbed to peritonitis (known to be linked to stress). Selina, after battling illness for several months and failing to respond to veterinary treatment, was euthanised on 1 June 1999. Autopsy results show that Selina had been suffering from an acute pancreatic abscess; a condition also related to stress. SAFE believes the loss of Cassana and Selina could prove fatal to Marineland's remaining dolphins.



SAFE's CAMPAIGN SUCCESS



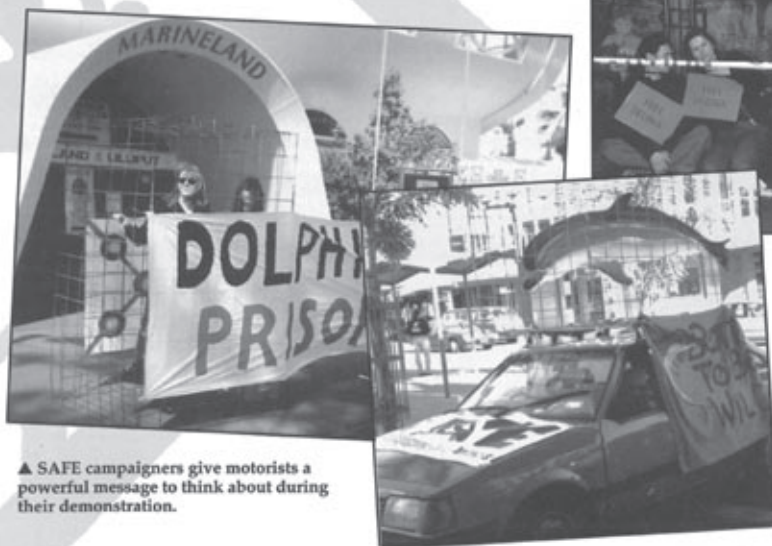
SAFE takes issue with Marineland

SAFE has been campaigning for several years to bring to an end the captive dolphin industry in New Zealand. We have shown the public that the quality of life for a captive dolphin is far from what the industry would have us believe.

SAFE campaigners have frequently visited Napier to express opposition against Marineland. Our campaign has been instrumental in changing public attitudes to Marineland. SAFE is determined that Kelly and Shona will be the last dolphins held by Marineland. SAFE has held street theatre demonstrations, public meetings, distribution of campaign information and a symbolic funeral for Cassana at the City Council buildings. These have generated extensive media coverage on the Marineland issue. We feel that this has been a major factor in the creation of Annabel Young's Private Member's Bill to ban the captivity of cetaceans in New Zealand.

"We do not need to keep these animals in tanks. New Zealand offers unique opportunities to see them in their natural environment — 1 out of every 25 tourists come here specifically to view whales and dolphins in the wild."

Wade Dook,
Co-founder, 'Project Interlock'



▲ SAFE campaigners give motorists a powerful message to think about during their demonstration.



▲ SAFE and Animal Action activists locked themselves to the entrance of Marineland initiating SAFE's three year campaign.

SAFE's Marineland campaign has also led to the formation of a new and enthusiastic SAFE Hawkes Bay branch. They have provided local support on the Marineland issue and campaigned strongly on other animal rights issues.

Marineland's future?

After two years of intensive campaigning, SAFE has entered into negotiations with key organisations and people in the hope that there can be a humane solution found for Marineland's two remaining dolphins. SAFE has been invited by the Mayor of Napier to have input into a working party to decide Marineland's fate. SAFE is advocating the conversion of Marineland into a rehabilitation centre and lobbying for Kelly and Shona to be released to an ocean sanctuary or rehabilitation programme.

It is time to put an end to the imprisonment of cetaceans. Support the ban on the exploitation of cetaceans in New Zealand.

"There is about as much educational benefit to be gained in studying dolphins in captivity as there would be in studying mankind by only observing prisoners held in solitary confinement."

Jacques Cousteau



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