

**Exhibition of exotic animals in circuses and exhibition of cetaceans in New South Wales
– Hannah Tait – question on notice**

How does high infant mortality rates in captive environments compare with the wild? (p 23-34 in transcript)

Given captivity is a controlled environment with sufficient food, no predators, boats or fishing nets, and constant monitoring of both mother and calf, dolphins born into captive environments should have much higher survival rates than their wild counterparts. However, this is not the case.

This is likely due to social and spatial restrictions in captive environments in comparison to the wild. In the wild, calves learn essential nursing skills from their mothers and other female members of the pod, and mothers dive with their new-born calves as deep as possible and as early as possible to help strengthen respiratory function. These crucial life skills, alongside hunting and socialising, are constrained in a captive environment. Such restrictions on natural behaviour can cause distress, which in turn leads to an increase in susceptibility to disease.