

Submission
No 189

**INQUIRY INTO EXHIBITION OF EXOTIC ANIMALS IN
CIRCUSES AND EXHIBITION OF CETACEANS IN NEW
SOUTH WALES**

Name: Mrs Theresa Hawkins
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I am opposed to the use of animals for any kind of entertainment, exhibition or performance. I do not support the continued keeping or breeding of Cetaceans or exotic animals in captivity.

CETACEANS

Cetaceans have complex social, physical and behavioural needs which are impossible to provide for in captivity. Dolphins are extremely intelligent animals with highly developed cognitive abilities, problem solving skills and language capabilities as well as complex social networks and inter-generational relationships.

In the wild, their natural existence is to roam their vast marine environment; they can travel over 100 km in a day, explore home ranges in excess of 170 km², seek opportunities for wave surfing, deep diving or sprint swimming, all of which are impossible in captivity. They rely heavily on echolocation to see their natural, complex home which is the ocean. Being confined in pools without complex seascapes to explore severely restricts their normal behaviour as well as their ability to swim naturally and encounter novel environments.

There is no evidence that justifies the keeping and breeding of dolphins in captivity on conservation grounds.

EXOTIC ANIMALS

In the specific case of circuses, I am opposed to the continued use of exotic animals, such as lions and non-human primates, because the requirements of circus life are not compatible with the physiological, social and behavioural needs of these animals. The RSPCA's has a policy reflecting these views based on evidence that no circus, no matter how well managed, can provide an appropriate environment for wild animals.