

## **#EMPTY THE TANKS: *Whale captivity and why zoos are wrong***

"A world where every whale and dolphin is save and free"

*Read for more.*

When thinking about zoos and animals in captivity there is always something in the back of your head that clicks and knows that there is something wrong with it. As many other things in life that we have to deal with, realizing zoos are basically a product of human selfishness is a hard deconstruction work of preconceived ideas.

Breaking that barrier and stablishing new opinions and perspectives on this topic might be tough and uncomfortable, therefore here there is some explanation and evidence thoroughly reviewed by scientists supporting this argument.

First of all, space is a major issue for whales and dolphins. The captive facilities normally provide a tiny enclosed space completely different to nature. A captive orca would need to swim around a perimeter of a tank around 1.400 times each day to cover the same distance in the wild. Also, whales are highly social animals that forms strongly realted groups that stay together all their lives in some cases. Isolating animals and breaking these relationships makes them lose their capacity to make decisions, to learn about feeding strategies, social interation habilities or mobility among other things. Moreover, there have been aggresion events recorded in captive environments because this animals end up mentally hurt due to the complete confinement they go through. For this reason, whales and dolphins suffer early mortality when in captivity. Studies (Jett & Ventre, 2005) have shown that nearly two-thirds of orca deaths happened in the first five years of a whale's imprisonment stay.

Thanks to all this information, public opinion is shifting side on this topic. There is some social activism movements going on such as #Emptythetanks that encourages people to speak up and fight against these institutions until no more animals are captured for the simply reason of satisfying the need of entretainment and ego of human society. For more information visit [www.emptythetanks.org](http://www.emptythetanks.org)



List of references → <https://uk.whales.org/blog/2018/07/why-whale-and-dolphin-captivity-is-cruel-science>

Jett J, Ventre J (2015) Captive killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) survival. *Marine Mammal Science*. 31 (4): 1362-1377