

Dear Mr Neale,

We have responded to this issue before but allow us to reiterate our position.

More and more, we humans find ourselves competing with wildlife, and thereby threatening their existence. More than ever, we must share the same environment and resources. The marine life in our oceans is increasingly facing a struggle to survive against ongoing man-made and natural environmental disasters, as recent events have shown us. For instance, increased vulnerability to diseases, as well as reproductive failure, are concerns for wild dolphin populations due to extremely high accumulation of chemical and heavy metal residues released into the environment by human activities, such as through incineration and transportation of toxic chemicals (Starvos *et al.*, 2011; Hall *et al.*, 2006; Wells *et al.*, 2005; Schwacke *et al.*, 2002; Lahvis *et al.*, 1995; Kuehl *et al.*, 1991; Cockcroft *et al.*, 1989). These findings have both direct and indirect impact on human health as well (Fair *et al.*, 2007; Bossart, 2006; Houde *et al.*, 2005).

For decades to come, such devastating catastrophes and conflicts will continue to challenge the survival of animal life in the wild, highlighting why we so strongly believe that zoological facilities will continue to play a crucial role in today's world. Through the medium of marine life parks, the public and researchers can effectively learn about marine animals, oceans, and the complex interconnections we share with the Earth.

Well-run zoological facilities can serve as protective guardians of individual animals and species. It is therefore timely for us to participate in this important role before it is too late. Indeed, various studies have shown that research with marine mammals under the care of zoological facilities has been and continues to be instrumental in increasing our understanding of dolphin perceptual and cognitive abilities, dolphin communication, dolphin physiology and reproduction as well as dolphin social behaviour (Stan A. Kuczaj II, 2010), among others. Such valuable information yielded, especially via long-term studies, would have been impossible to achieve for those marine mammals living in the wild.

In addition, two independent research studies conducted in 2009 concluded that guests who view dolphins in zoological settings demonstrated an increase in conservation-related knowledge, attitudes, and behavioural intentions immediately following their experience and retain what they learn. Participants in dolphin interactive programmes learned about the animals and conservation, shifted their attitudes, and acquired a sense of personal responsibility for environmental stewardship (Miller, 2009; Sweeney, 2009).

High on our agenda is our mission to make the Marine Life Park (MLP) a world-class institution by hosting conservation and education based programmes and curricula in matters relating to the MLP's entire collection, including our dolphins. For our research programmes, the MLP team will collaborate with other globally recognised research facilities and institutions in joint research ventures.

We reiterate that the dolphins in our care are healthy and residing in a facility that is safe and conducive to their health and well-being. The facilities exceed stringent international regulations.

Our dedicated team of experts includes highly respected veterinarians and experts from various fields in marine husbandry, who are dedicated to providing the very best care for our dolphins through husbandry, diet, daily behavioural enrichment and veterinary care. There are five vets in this core team, counting over 75 years of experience between them. We have also created a marine mammal clinical diagnostic laboratory to ensure proactive animal health exams and treatments are

available around-the-clock. All our dolphins have been under a robust health and husbandry programme since the beginning. This programme will continue at the animals' new facility at the MLP upon and after opening.

Dolphins in the wild do not always enjoy a totally carefree life - they fight for survival from predators, fishing boats, pollution, and, as mentioned earlier, environmental disasters. Our dolphins have been in our care for three years. They have acclimated well to human care, and we are confident they will continue to thrive.

We have set a clear vision to build a Marine Life Park that will make a mark in marine conservation and research. We have taken a stand on sharks fin, funded work on patrols in the Galapagos Islands, and set up a Marine Life Fund - all before we opened.

Like many other reputable institutions, we care about the marine environment and wildlife. We remain deeply committed to doing our part for marine conservation and education. We are unequivocal in our commitment to taking on the responsibility of providing uncompromised care for all our marine animals including our dolphins that will call our park home. We encourage you to visit our website (<http://www.rwsentosa.com/language/en-US/Attractions/MarineLifePark>) and periodically read our MLP blog (<http://mlp.rwsentosablog.com>) to learn more about us.

Thank you.

LIM Soon Hua  
Communications  
D +65 6577-9768  
F +65 6577-9774



A MILLION MOMENTS. ONE WORLD.

Resorts World Sentosa  
39 Artillery Avenue, Sentosa, Singapore 099958  
T: +65 6577 8888