

海洋公園公司回應南區區議員有關動物方面的問題

2020年1月23日

Ocean Park Corporation's Response to Queries Raised by Southern District Counsellors on Animal Issues

23 Jan, 2020

海洋劇場轉型及互動活動

Transformation of Ocean Theatre and Interactive Activities

現時海豚於劇場展現的動作均屬野外可見的自然行為，例如跳躍、翻騰、擺尾、拍打尾巴或前鰭和躍身擊浪，這些動作都是此一物種在野外覓食、互動及溝通時會展現的自然行為，動物在參與過程中，亦會獲得身心和智力的刺激，這些都是維持動物福利的元素。

未來海洋公園動物策略的重心，將會脫離傳統的動物表演模式，以著重環境保護、海洋保育和教育的形式展示動物和相關展品和提供相關活動，訪客可透過這些嶄新的展示模式加深對生態和動物保育的認識，提升他們的環境保育意識。原本居於海洋劇場的海豚，將會於 2023 年被遷移至高峰樂園探險家碼頭的一座全新興建的棲息地，展示海豚以及其他海洋生物自然生態。至於海洋劇場將會升級成為一座標誌性的多功能表演場館。

獨立研究和園內遊人問卷調查多番印證動物展示對遊人帶來正面影響。水生哺乳動物公園及水族館聯盟（The Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums）在 2011 年進行的一項研究顯示，89%受訪者同意小朋友在水族館或動物園內學習有關海洋生物知識的成效比在課堂更高；88%受訪者同意於海洋生物主題公園獲取動物知識是個跟觀看電影或電視節目無可比擬的學習方式。此外，據公園所進行的遊人問卷調查顯示，大部分遊人認為到訪海洋公園，包括海洋劇場的體驗既有趣又富教育意義；而遊園更有助提升作出實際保育行動來保護環境的意欲（遊園前 77%受訪者比對遊園後 97%受訪者）。因此，在新展館建成前，公園會維持於海洋劇場的海豚展示以提升遊人對海洋動物的保育意欲。

海洋公園在過去未曾發生海豚或海獅傷害遊客的事故，任何動物的互動和展示均以動物和參與者的安全以及動物的福利為第一考慮。

Dolphins at Ocean Theatre demonstrate behaviour that can be observed in the wild, including bowing, leaping, tail lobbing, tail or flipper slapping and breaching. These behaviours are naturally displayed when this species forages, interacts and communicates in the wild. Animals are physically and mentally stimulated when participating in these demonstrations, which is an important element in maintaining good animal welfare.

The future animal strategic plan will steer away from conventional animal show and focus on its animal exhibits and display on environmental protection, marine conservation and education. Through these new displays, visitors will know more about ecology and animal protection, and hence be more aware of environmental conservation. The marine animals, including the dolphins originally living at Ocean Theatre, will be moved to a Summit exhibit at a new attraction called Explorer's Wharf scheduled to be ready in 2023. Meanwhile, Ocean Theatre will be converted into a new multi-purpose performance venue.

An independent research study and the in-park visitor survey confirmed that animal display would bring positive influence to visitors. According to a study conducted by The Alliance of

Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums in 2011, 89% respondents agreed that kids could learn the knowledge of marine animals better in Aquariums or Zoos than in classrooms; 88% respondents agreed that gaining animal knowledge in a park themed at marine animal would be an incomparable learning style when compared with watching movies or television programmes. Moreover, according to the in-park visitor survey, most visitors agreed that the experience of visiting the Park, including Ocean Theatre, was interesting and educational; visiting the Park would also help them to take action to protect the environment (The percentages before and after visiting the Park are 77% and 97% respectively). Therefore, the Park will continue the dolphin demonstration at Ocean Theatre to enhance visitors' initiative to protect marine animals before the new exhibit is completed.

Guest injury related to dolphin and sea lion has never happened in Ocean Park's history. Animal and guests' safety and animals' welfare are the number 1 priority in our animal interaction and presentation and they will never be compromised.

人工繁殖的需要

The Need for Artificial Breeding

目前 (2020 年 1 月 23 日), 公園共有 22 隻(8 雄/14 雌)海豚, 包括 16 隻在人工環境下出生及 6 隻來自野外族群。這些來自野外的「始祖」海豚分別在 1987 及 1997 年運送到港。海洋公園的海豚並沒有近親繁殖。

海洋公園會按需要進行人工繁殖, 包括維持園內海豚族群的基因多樣性、使用過世已久或與海外的水族館交換的雪藏精子等, 以維持醫療、護理和科研等各方面的傳承和發展。

Up till 23 January 2020, there are altogether 22 dolphins (8 males, 14 females) in Ocean Park. 16 of them were born in captive, while 6 were adopted from the wild. These 6 adopted from the wild arrived in 1987 & 1997. They are the "ancestors" of our dolphin community. We do not have inbreeding dolphins.

Ocean Park conducts dolphin artificial insemination based on the needs including: to maintain biodiversity, to use frozen semen from those who have passed away long time ago and to use frozen semen which is exchanged from oversea facilities, etc. All these can help to maintain and to facilitate the medical, husbandry technique as well as scientific research developments.

海洋公園的海豚並不適合野放

Ocean Park's dolphins are not suitable to be released into the wild

有關將公園內所有海豚放歸野外的建議不切實際，亦不符合動物的最佳利益。根據美國魚類及野生動物管理局，以及美國國家海洋漁業局發出的指引〔（“Policies & Best Practices – Marine Mammal Stranding Response, Rehabilitation and Release” guidelines published by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (Whaley, J.E., Borkowski, R. 2009)）〕，清楚列明多項條件，以客觀因素評估是否適宜把曾受傷的鯨豚放歸野外。根據有關指引，海洋公園的海豚並不適宜放歸野外，原因是大部分海洋公園的海豚均於園內或其他水族館出生，從未曾棲息於野外，而其餘則已年邁，把牠們放歸大自然對牠們的存活有重大威脅。

海洋公園的動物由出生到離世均會得到我們最優質的護理。由於在海洋公園海豚的平均壽命愈來愈長，本園更開展了「年長顧理 aged-care」計劃，讓年老的海豚參與環境豐富活動，使牠們能鍛煉身心，自由自在地參加常規護理及其他健康檢查程序。此外，年老海豚並不會參與公園的保育繁殖計劃。

The suggestion to release all dolphins in Ocean Park back to the wild is unrealistic and not in the best interests of the animals. Based on the “Policies & Best Practices – Marine Mammal Stranding Response, Rehabilitation and Release” guidelines published by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (Whaley, J.E., Borkowski, R. 2009) that define criteria for determining whether rehabilitated cetaceans are “releasable” or “non-releasable”, dolphins under Ocean Park's care are deemed non-releasable. The majority of our dolphins were born at the Park or other zoological facilities and have no experience in the ocean. Others are at advanced ages. Our dolphins would be at a great disadvantage if they were to be released into the wild.

We are committed to providing the best care for all of the animals under our care from cradle to grave. With the increasing average life expectancy of its resident dolphins, the Park has developed programmes for “aged-care”. Such programmes enable aged dolphins to engage in enrichment activities that provide psychological challenges and physical exercise, as well as foster a voluntary, stress-free experience for the dolphins during routine and other health monitoring procedures. Furthermore, aged dolphins are not involved in conservation breeding at the Park

中華白海豚及江豚的保育

Conservation of Chinese white dolphins and finless porpoises

公園在照顧及護理園內海豚期間，獲得有關海豚的寶貴知識和經驗，讓我們得以將這些經驗和知識應用於野外，保育大海中的海豚。由 2006 年起，海洋公園一直支援保育基金和漁農自然護理署(漁護署)處理本地鯨豚擱淺個案，除了財務上的援助，公園的獸醫和海洋哺乳動物團隊亦在其專業範疇上提供支援。截至 2019 年，保育基金與漁護署及海洋公園獸醫團隊合力於本港水域處理合共處理 120 宗中華白海豚的擱淺個案。此外，海洋公園亦提供場地及設施，讓受傷、被遺棄或擱淺的野生鯨豚及海龜得以接受治療及恢復健康。此外，由匯豐 150 週年慈善計劃撥款資助的「香港海洋生物救護及教育中心」（救護及教育中心）亦於 2019 年 9 月 2 日正式開幕，以填補現時中華白海豚等海洋動物擱淺研究的不足。倘若我們的動物護理設施關閉，將大大影響香港在處理和照料在本港水域不幸擱淺和被拯救之動物的能力。

The extensive knowledge and experience gained through caring for dolphins enable the Park to contribute to conserving dolphins in the wild. Since 2006, Ocean Park has been supporting the

Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong, and Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in managing cetacean stranding in Hong Kong. As of 2019, OPCFHK, along with AFCD and the Ocean Park Veterinary Team, have investigated a total of 120 Chinese white dolphin stranding cases found in Hong Kong waters. In addition to financial support and technical expertise contributed by the Park's veterinarians and Marine Mammal team, Ocean Park has been providing its facilities for rehabilitation of injured, orphaned or stranded cetaceans and turtles. Funded by the HSBC 150th Anniversary Charity Programme, the Hong Kong Marine Life Stranding and Education Centre (HKMLSEC) was officially opened on 2 September 2019, filling the gaps of current stranding research of marine life including Chinese white dolphins. Closing down our animal care facilities would detrimentally impact Hong Kong's ability to respond to and care for the unfortunate stranded and rescued animals found in Hong Kong waters.

人工飼養及通報機制

Animals under human care and disclosure policy

海洋公園沒有計劃停止飼養動物。海洋公園相信讓遊人接觸並與動物建立情感聯繫可以激發遊人學習重要的教育信息並支持保育工作。

海洋公園理解公眾對動物的關注。從 2012 年起，在海洋公園的業績報告中報告由獨立會計師事務所核證的年度動物統計數字，包括動物出生、死亡、引入、及離園的數據。自 2014 年以來，當有重點動物(包括海豚) 出生、死亡、引入、及離園，海洋公園會通過新聞公報在事件發生的 24 小時內向公眾報告。

Ocean Park has not plan to stop keeping animals. We truly believe that allowing visitors to contact and establish an emotional connection with the animal can inspire them to learn more educational information and to support conservation.

The Park is proactive in addressing public concerns. Since 2012, information on animal vital statistics verified by an independent accounting firm has been reported in the Park's annual reports, including animal acquisitions and dispositions, birth and mortality data. Since 2014, variations of animals of high public concern, including bottlenose dolphins, are reported to public via media release within 24 hours of the event.

科技不能取代動物大使

Advance Technology can't replace Animal Ambassadors

雖然現今科技能展示高像真度的虛擬動物現實影像，但觀察海豚和與牠們近距離對望可使遊人與海豚建立關係，同時加深對保育訊息的認知和支持。多年來，公園一直以提倡及教育公眾保護環境的重要性為使命。提高保護動物的意識方法不止一種，但透過實際觀察及與動物接觸來獲取動物知識，是最有效直接及無可比擬的學習方式。獲得業界評審機構認證的設施，例如海洋公園，讓遊人在一個受尊重、安全及饒富教育意義的環境中近距離觀察動物，這不但有助改變遊人對保育的看法，更可增加了解及鼓勵他們身體力行。

據公園所進行的遊人問卷調查顯示，大部分遊人認為到訪海洋公園，包括海洋劇場的體驗既有趣又富教育意義；而遊園更有助提升作出實際保育行動來保護環境的意欲（遊園前 77%受訪者比對遊園後 97%受訪者）。

我們亦透過獨立消費者調查公司進行為期一年的遊人離園意見調查，結果顯示百分之九十六的遊人在遊覽海洋公園的展區和景點後，對動物保育和教育的意識有所提升。進一步研究亦顯示，在海洋公園等動物設施與動物親身見面並學習相關知識和保育議題，較看電視或電影更能啟發人們以行動支持保育。我們相信在海洋公園謹慎照料下的動物能擔當動物大使的重任，宣傳保育訊息。

Although modern technology can display high-fidelity, true-to-life virtual images, looking into the eyes of dolphins up close enable visitors to form emotional connections with the animal, making them more motivated to learn important educational messages and to support conservation. For years, it has been the Park's mission to inspire and educate the public on the importance of conserving the environment. Although there are different ways to raise awareness on animal conservation, the impact of actually seeing and connecting with animals is immediate and far-reaching. Accredited facilities like Ocean Park offer a respectful, safe and educational environment that can influence perception, increase understanding and inspire action.

Moreover, according to the in-park visitor survey, most visitors agreed that the experience of visiting the Park, including Ocean Theatre, was interesting and educational; visiting the Park would also help them to take action to protect the environment (The percentages before and after visiting the Park are 77% and 97% respectively).

Exit surveys conducted with Park guests over a one-year period by an independent consumer research company indicated that 96% of respondents depart with an enhanced awareness of conservation and education for animals. Further studies also show that people are more inspired to take action to support conservation when they learn about an animal and its conservation issues coupled with meeting and seeing the animals in facilities such as Ocean Park than through television or films. We believe that animals under our good care serve as important conservation ambassadors.

監察動物權益

Monitoring Animal Welfare

海洋公園嚴謹遵從香港法律保障動物福利相關的條例，並與香港漁農自然護理署（漁護署）保持緊密合作，確保園內所有展館及一切相應管理措施，均切合動物的身心和社交需要。海洋公園的動物護理和動物福利質素獲得全球最重要的業界評審機構確認，包括動物園及水族館協會（Association of Zoos & Aquariums，簡稱 AZA）和水生哺乳動物公園及水族館聯盟（Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums，簡稱 AMMPA）。海洋公園更是首間在北美洲以外被 AZA 認證，以及唯一在北美洲以外可連續四次獲 AZA 頒發五年認可資格的設施。

獸醫及護理團隊根據動物的生理、心理及情緒作出持續及科學化的分析以評估動物福利。一般而言，動物在健康、舒適、營養充足、安全、能夠發展及展示物種性關係、行為、認知能力，及不會因痛楚、驚懼或焦慮而受苦時，就能經歷良好的福利。

Ocean Park strictly adheres to the animal welfare ordinances in Hong Kong and works closely with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to ensure that all our exhibits, along with facility management practices, are designed with the animals' physical, social and

psychological needs in mind. The foremost global accrediting associations in the field, including the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA), affirm the quality of Ocean Park's animal care and animal welfare. Ocean Park is the first zoological facility outside North America to be accredited by AZA, and the only facility to be ever accredited for four consecutive five-year accreditation terms in a row outside of North America.

Animal welfare refers to an animal's collective physical, mental, and emotional states over a period of time, and is measured on a continuum from good to poor. An animal typically experiences good welfare when it is healthy, comfortable, well-nourished, safe, able to develop and express species-typical relationships, behaviours, and cognitive abilities, and not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, or distress.

海洋公園公司
Ocean Park Corporation
2020 年 1 月
January 2020