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DOLPHIN & WHALE PROTECTION

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FUNDRAISE
FOR
ANIMALS

To start with, please [see our list of 10 Worst Tanks for Dolphins & Whales](#) in North America.

Dolphins and whales, referred to collectively as “cetaceans”, represent more than intelligent minds and friendly faces in the world’s oceans. While they’ve captured the hearts and imagination of people for millennia, they have also been cruelly exploited in some exceptional ways; ironically, often for the same reasons we are so fascinated by them. Now that we know more, we can do more for them.

OUR VISION

Is a world in which all cetaceans are protected and respected rather than exploited.

OUR MISSION

Is to demonstrably reduce the degree and quantity of physical and psychological suffering in cetaceans from humans – in captivity and in the wild. Ultimately, to also to enhance the wellbeing, survival and cultures of cetacean individuals and populations.



OUR STRATEGY

To address cetacean protection, both in captivity and the wild, when our impacts may be the most notable, using a strategy of research, investigation, direct action, political action, policy, public awareness, and education.

Specifically:

1) **In captivity:** To improve the wellbeing of all dolphins and whales by:

- Preventing future captures
- Supporting the creation of the first cetacean sanctuaries and, if feasible, opportunities for successful reintroduction of cetaceans to the wild
- Improving the lives of captive orcas and other cetaceans forced to live in solitary confinement with no others of the same species
- Identifying and bettering the lives of cetaceans
- Ending the use of captive cetaceans for interactive programs with the public such as “petting pools” and “swim programs” that pose additional and serious risks and impacts



2) **In the wild:** To protect the lives, wellbeing, and societal cultures of free-ranging cetacean individuals and populations – including their habitat.

3) **Where captivity and the wild collide:** To emphasize areas of both cetacean captivity and cetacean conservation where these issues collide the most notably (e.g., cetacean captures from wild and captive facility miseducation about cetaceans and their natural environment).

4) **Where cetacean and elephant issues intersect:** To highlight the plight of both elephants and orcas, in particular, when prominent issues facing both occur in similar ways. Orcas and elephants share exceptionally similar behaviors, life history characteristics, and are both “keystone species” ecologically – and are similarly iconic for zoos and aquaria. Towards this goal, In Defense of Animals has initiated the WELL Project – Whales, Elephants, Life and Liberty. Please [sign up for our updates](#) to learn more!

Our Cetacean and Elephant Scientist, Toni Frohoff, Ph.D. is a wildlife behavioral-biologist who has been studying wildlife, with an emphasis on dolphins, whales, and elephants, for over 30 years. She specializes in human interactions with non-human animals and the psychological wellbeing of animals in the wild and captivity. Dr. Frohoff conducted the first research on dolphins used in captive “swim” and “petting pool” programs and has been studying cetacean communication, cognition, and psychology in the wild – but only on their terms.

Having a world-class expert on our team makes In Defense of Animals particularly well-poised to implement much needed and uniquely effective programs to protect our dolphin and whale neighbors who are relying on us. We welcome you to join us as we strive to protect dolphins and whales!

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IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS

3010 Kerner Blvd,
San Rafael, California 94901

T: +1 415 448 0048
F: +1 415 454 1031

E: info@idausa.org
EIN: 68-000-8936

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