

Examples where Dolphinella captive dolphin facility, Sharm el Sheikh does not adhere to the Federation of Tour Operators Preferred Code of Practice for Captive Animal Attractions

Loud music should not be used during performances (p13)

Dolphinella uses very loud music and commentary over this.

Direct contact between animals and the public should be actively discouraged. If it is permitted, it should be under the supervision of a qualified person and preventative measures should be taken (and documented) to prevent disease transfer (zoonosis) between the public and the animals. People should be made aware of these risks and encouraged to use hand-washing facilities both before and after touching the animals. (p14)

Tour Operators sell excursions to Dolphinella; I have seen no evidence of discouraging people to visit Dolphinella to touch the dolphins. There is no documentation available to the public regarding the risks involved with swimming with dolphins.

Enclosures should be furnished in accordance with the needs of the animal. (p15)

The enclosure at Dolphinella is completely barren, a smooth-sided tank which holds no stimulus at all for dolphins.

Animals should not be used as photographic objects. (p16)

Dolphinella makes its dolphin's beach themselves for between 40-60 seconds per photograph following the dolphin show.

Discourage direct contact between an animal and a human as this may present danger to the public and cause stress or injury to the animal. (p20)

Since Tour Operators advertise Dolphinella as an excursion, I do not believe people are discouraged to undertake direct contact with the dolphins during the dolphin swim with programme.

Potentially dangerous practices such as dolphin dorsal and pectoral fin rides should be prohibited. (p20)

This practice is undertaken by Dolphinella during the swim with programme, in fact the Marine Connection witnessed this while present in Sharm el Sheikh in October 2006.

Suppliers should actively promote public education and awareness in relation to animal welfare and the conservation of biodiversity. (p21)

There is no public education to speak of at Dolphinella. There are no educational signs, commentary or images.

Suppliers should have a written education strategy and an active education programme. (p21)

There is no public education to speak of at Dolphinella. There are no educational signs, commentary or images.

Accurate information about the species exhibited should be displayed on the enclosures. As a minimum this should include: (p21)

Species name (common & scientific) / some of its biological characteristics / description of its natural habitat / details of its conservation status / threats to it in the wild.

This is not exhibited anywhere at the facility. Although the facility has previously stated that their dolphins are from the Black Sea this is concerning since wild dolphin captures have been illegal there since 2002 yet one of their dolphins was wild caught and exported to Dolphinella in 2003.

For animals used in performances, the performance must be able to demonstrate adequate educational contribution to justify it. E.g. the performance can educate people by animals displaying aspects of their natural behaviour and this being interpreted to visitors through a commentary that explains how this behaviour manifests itself in the wild and why it is important to the animal. (p21-22)

The commentary during the show mentioned only the names of the trainers and dolphins, there was no educational content. In addition, the performance did not display natural behaviours – painting a canvas, pulling a child in an inflatable dinghy, catching a ball and throwing it to the trainer, spinning hoops on its nose.

Animal attractions should not take wildlife out of the wild to stock their exhibits, as this defeats their conservation ethic. (p23)

Dolphinella has ONE WILD CAUGHT DOLPHIN

A responsible animal attraction should consider the following:

Not place additional pressure on wild species by removing animals from the wild. (p23)

Dolphinella has ONE WILD CAUGHT DOLPHIN

In order to improve animal welfare and achieve greater sustainability, tour operators and suppliers will need to act on all customer feedback. (p26)

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