

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

(In association with R.S.P.C.A. England) Patroness: LADY Y.P. McNEICE



FRIENDS FOR LIFE

9 March 2010

Forum Editor
Straits Times

Dear Sir

The recent drowning of a trainer at SeaWorld, Orlando, Florida was indeed a tragedy, with many horrified people witnessing the violent act by Tilikum, a killer whale, and long term resident in the amusement park. The animal had just finished performing at a noon time show. It was reported that this was not the first time that the same killer whale had been implicated in a death. If one watches documentaries on these creatures (also known as Orcas), they are naturally violent and aggressive towards their prey. They are also highly intelligent. Years of abuse in the captivity process, from the capture, training and compulsory performing, no doubt provide the right climate for lashing out against the humans involved in the cruelty. What goes on behind the scenes in the training process, one can only imagine – and withholding or rewarding with food, must surely be one way that the animals are bribed and forced into submission.

One could only hope on hearing of this latest incident, that a universal review be carried out to stamp out the insidious cruelty of capturing or breeding wild animals for human entertainment and amusement, which ultimately, some humans will pay the price for, as in this case.

Closer to home there have been incidences also, where wild animals used in performances have also let loose their frustrations. As long as these creatures are placed in close proximity to unsuspecting and excited audiences there will always be a risk of them attacking because they are inherently wild and unpredictable.

Referring to the letter by ACRES “Wild Animals are Dangerous” (on-line Forum 5 March), the SPCA supports the call for captive establishments here to be the leaders and refrain from using wild animals (including whales, dolphins, elephants, snakes) to perform or be handled by members of the public, in the interest of the latter’s safety, and to protect the animals from unnecessary stress. We also hope that AVA will review SPCA’s request in 2002 to extend the ban on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses (on public safety and animal welfare grounds) to captive facilities or other entertainment mediums in Singapore.

Yours sincerely

Deirdre Moss (Ms)
Executive Officer