

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

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



10 January 2011

The Editor,
Voices
Today

Dear Sir,

I refer to the letters from Krist Boo, Communications Resorts World Sentosa “Marine park walks the talk” and “RWS must comply” from Carrie Kwik, Singapore Tourism Board (Weekend Today 8 January). These responses were in reply to recent concerns and objections to the importation of wild caught dolphins for the planned Marine Life Park at the integrated resort. The shocking news (reported in Today 18 December) that two dolphins from a pod of seven being housed at Langkawi Island Malaysia had died, only brings home the reminder that these animals should never have been removed from the wild in the first place.

It is an irony that whilst the “Marine park walks the talk” cites examples where it has supported the conservation of wildlife, Resorts World Sentosa has been party to removing dolphins from the wild. How does this cruel act set an example in education and wildlife conservation?

No doubt RWS has to comply with international regulations and our veterinary authority's animal welfare requirements, but this begs the question of whether it was moral and ethical for the dolphins to have been removed from the wild. The act of catching and confining these animals in limited spaces and training them to become something they are not, cannot possibly contribute towards constructive education of the public on marine life and environmental issues.

Whilst attractions elsewhere may have been successful and have appeal, they have had their share of tragedies as well. A killer whale Tilikum at SeaWorld, Orlando, Florida, killed its trainer last year – following years of confinement and performing in captivity. Endless mental anguish had probably taken its toll on the giant. We should never underestimate these captive animals' capacity to suffer.

Yours sincerely,

Deirdre Moss (Ms.)
Executive Director