**Interesting Facts About Dolphin**

We all know dolphins. Yes, they are sweet and playful animals. So cute that circus and zoos captive them for showbiz and skills demonstration. Yikes. Actually that is bad. Let animals be free in their habitat. Good news is, the authorities agreed to ban dolphin-swimming in Hawaii, which is good example to end dolphin exploitation, hopefully this will resonates througout the world.

Anyway, speaking of water mammals, probably you don’t know much about them. There are few interesting facts about dolphins you should know. The more you know them the more you like them. Here we go!

1. **Killer Siblings**

Dolphins and orcas (also known as “killer whale”) are close relatives. They are belong to a family of oceanic dolphins. Though in appearance they are easily identifiable, they are surely from the same family. Umm... let me get this straight. An orca is *actually* a dolphin.

1. **They sleeps.**

Sleeping? Of course! But how? Do they make the bed in the bottom of the ocean? Well......no. Dolphins breath with pair of lungs, not with gills. They are considered water mammals, not a just a fish. So how in the world they do it?

They swim just about where the blowhole (their nose) can reach the air. A special reflex keep the tail swims and hovering while they take a rest. While they are sleeping, only *half* of the brain is used. However they keep enough conciousness to watch for predators or other trouble.

1. **Rivers and seas**.

Usually dolphins live in saltwater, but there are few species live in rivers. 7 known species are classified as freshwater dolphins. Some of them are Amazon river dolphin, tucuxi, and indus river dolphins. Sadly some of them are falls into “extinct” category since scientist could no longer find them in wildlife.

1. **Porpoises**

It is not a name of fictional alien tribe. It is an animal. On earth. Actually they are belongs to the same family as dolphins. They are smaller in size but shares similar physical atributes and behaviour like dolphins.

1. **Smarter than us?**

Thanks to movies and stories, we tend to belief that dolphins are intelligent animals. But scientist said it is debatable. Research and test on dolphin’s intelligent are somewhat expensive and difficult to do in their habitat. While dolphin in captivity may shows different results, making the research even harder. But here’s the thing ; US Navy has trained dolphins to look for mines and tag them. However, official information on how they trained them hasn’t released to the public yet.

1. **Social clubs**

Dolphins known to love in a large herds, called a pod. Normally a pod contains 2-40 dolphins, But research have found a pod with several hundred members. Sometimes the group even have different species. Although these groups of species hunt together, they’re not competing for food and able to travel together. Now that’s something for you to learn from, humans!

From the facts above we can see that dolphins are beautiful, lovable creatures. To ensure their survival in the wild, we must let them there and provide help only when they need it. We need to limit human contact as little as possible. They make a great entertainment, yes. But it is much important to keep the environment stable, so the future generation will have the chance to learn about them and keep them save.

Source:

(<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/federal-regulators-want-to-ban-swimming-with-dolphins-in-hawaii/>)

<http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/endangered_species/cetaceans/about/river_dolphins/>

<http://www.dolphins-world.com/dolphin-information/>

<http://www.onekind.org/education/animals_a_z/dolphin/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porpoise#Anatomy>

<http://www.defenders.org/dolphin/basic-facts>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#Taxonomy_and_evolution>