

Costco's corporate office  
PO Box 34331. Seattle,  
WA 98124.

Dear Mr. Jelinek,

I have recently learned that Costco sells amusement park tickets and while I'm thankful that customers like me now have the opportunity to purchase them for future vacations while doing our grocery shopping, I am deeply concerned that one of the parks that you sell tickets for is SeaWorld.

After watching the alarming documentary 'Blackfish', I began to research the issue of orca captivity myself. There are numerous scientific research papers that have been written about how orcas, due to their enormous size, physical activity, high intellect & self-awareness are not suitable animals to be held in captivity.

Here are a few key facts:

- Captivity kills orcas: 107 (80%) of the 134 orcas captured since 1961 have died in captivity. The average age of those that died was less than 20 years old;
- Captivity shortens orca life spans: "Despite the veterinary care provided at SeaWorld, it has not improved the animals' 50% infant mortality rate. Most orcas at SeaWorld have died in their teens and 20's (if they survived infancy in the first place), compared with an average life expectancy of 30-50 years in the wild (and an estimated maximum life span of 60-90 years)";
- No concrete tank can ever replicate an orca's natural habitat, no matter the level of care: In the wild, orcas typically swim 100 miles or more per day. In captivity, they spend most of their time lethargically floating in the water of a tiny tank, which leads to dorsal fin collapse in 98% of the captive orcas while only 1% of wild orcas ever display this type of collapse. Many captive orcas have had most of their teeth drilled out after breaking them by chewing on the steel bars in their tanks. Also, confinement in such tiny tanks causes unnecessary stress and aggression among captive orcas and often leads to premature death;
- Irresponsible breeding orca programs: Captive female orcas are routinely impregnated artificially at very early age (8 years old), much

earlier than their wild counterparts would naturally be (15 years old).

The commercial exploitation of highly intelligent, self-aware, sentient beings like orcas for our “entertainment” is out-dated, unethical and morally wrong. To make this a world a better place, we need to teach our children to respect these animals and that keeping them in captivity is wrong.

I encourage you to do your own research like I did. I am a long-time customer who routinely shops at Costco and I know that there are many other customers like me who would like to see your stores stop selling tickets to SeaWorld, a place which so many of us find morally objectionable.

I am hoping that consumer pressure such as ours will eventually force SeaWorld to change their business model to one that does not exploit these beautiful majestic animals for human entertainment.

I urge you to immediately stop selling SeaWorld tickets at all of your stores. Thank you for your time and I am looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Your Name  
Address

References:

<http://www.opsociety.org/PressReleases/SeaWorldOpenLetterRebuttal-OPS.pdf>

[http://seaworldpledge.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Leg-Fact-Sheet\\_Orca-Captivity-021914.pdf](http://seaworldpledge.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Leg-Fact-Sheet_Orca-Captivity-021914.pdf)

[http://www.wdcs.org/submissions\\_bin/orcareport.pdf](http://www.wdcs.org/submissions_bin/orcareport.pdf)