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# More Evidence that Research With Captive Marine Mammals Is Important: An Introduction to the Second Special Issue

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The papers in this special issue complement those in the preceding special issue and once again demonstrate the significance of research with captive marine mammals. A number of papers in this issue summarize bodies of research conducted with captive marine mammals at specific facilities (Bauer, Colbert, & Gaspard; Perelberg, Veit, van der Woude, Donio, & Shashar, & Eilat; Tizzi, Accorsi, & Azzali), and in so doing provide valuable insights into the significance of such research and the roles that facilities can play in advancing our understanding of marine mammals. Three papers present original findings that aptly illustrate the value of research with captive marine mammals as well as the range of such research – Horback, Friedman, and Johnson consider factors that influence the occurrence of s-postures in belugas (*Delphinapterus leucas*); Jaakkola, Guarino, and Rodriguez report some very intriguing findings on a bottlenose dolphin's (*Tursiops truncatus*) ability to mimic vocal and motor behaviors while blindfolded; Muraco, Clough, Teets, Arn, and Muraco report on the relationship between ovarian follicular dynamics and the LH surge in bottlenose dolphins. In their respective papers, Delfour presents a novel theoretical perspective on how marine mammals make sense of their experience, and Brando reviews the role of training in marine mammal husbandry. The remaining papers provide excellent reviews of research in a variety of areas, numerous suggestions for future research efforts, and emphasize the importance of studying both captive and wild marine mammals (Dudzinski; Johnson; Kuczaj, Xitco, & Gory; Morisaka, Kohshima, Yoshioka, Suzuki, & Nakahara; Pack; Paulos, Trone, & Kuczaj; Perelberg et al.).

As I noted in my introduction to the first special issue on research with captive marine mammals, the goals of the two special issues were to: (1) highlight the significance of research with captive animals, (2) emphasize the complementary nature of captive research with research that is done with wild animals, (3) urge researchers to cooperate, regardless of whether they study captive or wild animals, and (4) encourage facilities with captive marine mammals to allow researchers to conduct meaningful studies that further our understanding of marine mammal anatomy, behavior, cognition, communication, perception, and physiology. I believe that the contributors to the two special issues have fulfilled goals 1 and 2, and I commend them for their efforts. I hope that the two special issues also result in more collaboration among scientists who study wild animals and those who study captive ones, as well as increased opportunities for meaningful research at faculties that house marine mammals.

The notion that research with captive marine mammals is important is not a new one. Norris (1991) provided an excellent review of the significance of pioneering studies with captive dolphins, and I recommend this article to everyone interested in marine mammal behavior and/or the history of this field. In addition, Pryor and Norris (1991) emphasized the necessity of studying both wild and captive animals, and it is fitting to conclude this introduction with a quote from them.

"We learn most about cetaceans when we study them both in the wild and in captivity; captive animals offer us understanding that cannot be acquired at a distance, and such understanding is fundamental to caring about cetaceans (Pryor & Norris, 1991, p. 1)".

## References


Norris, K. S. (1991). Looking at captive dolphins. In K. Pryor & K. S. Norris (Eds.), *Dolphin societies: Discoveries and puzzles* (pp. 293-304). Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Pryor, K., & Norris, K. S. (1991). Introduction. In K. Pryor & K. S. Norris (Eds.), *Dolphin societies: Discoveries and puzzles* (pp. 1-3). Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.