

turning them into clowns. In addition to the play behavior, in which they are very rich, they get a piece of fish in addition; what could be a more ideal set-up for a sea lion? All the behaviors which a trained sea lion exhibits can be converted into demonstrations of what a sea lion does naturally.

There are certainly questions of portable versus fixed location exhibits of sea lions and dolphins. Sea lions have proved much more adaptable to frequent moves than have dolphins; however, there is a modern technology of dolphin transport, which when properly executed, is extremely safe and foolproof. Again much of this technology arose in the private enterprise sector of marine mammal care and exhibition. There should certainly be guidelines governing acceptable handling, care, and transport of all these animals, and there should be reasonable monitoring of the practices. However, we do suggest that regulations not be made so restrictive and rigid that new and improved techniques might possibly be prohibited.

In summary, to resolve at this point that all sea lion exhibits should be terminated, or made impossible to continue, is to be grossly unfair to the public, to the exhibitors, and possibly to the animals themselves.

Sincerely,

Marian Breland
President

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MB/de

Encl.

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