

SEAWORLD PARKS & ENTERTAINMENT



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SEAWORLD PARKS & ENTERTAINMENT FACT SHEET ***A Passion for Conservation***

The parks of SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment – including SeaWorld & Busch Gardens – inspire 23 million guests a year to celebrate and conserve the natural world. Through up-close animal encounters, educational exhibits and innovative entertainment, every one of these guests leave with a heightened sensitivity to the world around them and an awareness of the plight of animals in the wild.

The parks' commitment to research and conservation also has led to advances in the care of animals in both zoological facilities and wild populations. SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment maintains one of the largest animal collections in the world -- more than 60,000 animals, including 200 endangered, threatened and at-risk species -- and is a global leader in animal husbandry, veterinary care and training.

The company has contributed \$50 million to conservation, wildlife rescue and environmental stewardship programs worldwide.

Animal Rescue: SeaWorld parks have helped animals in need -- ill, injured, orphaned and abandoned -- for more than four decades. More than 18,000 animals have been rescued by the park's animal experts including whales, dolphins, seals, sea lions, manatees, sea turtles and birds. This is the equivalent of helping one animal a day -- every day -- for 45 years. The majority of these animals are successfully treated by SeaWorld veterinarians, rehabilitated and returned to the wild.

Global Programs/ SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund: In addition to direct support of hundreds of environmental, research and conservation projects, the company provides millions of dollars in cash, support and human resources to the SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund. A registered non-profit conservation foundation, the Fund has granted \$8 million in support of projects around the world in more than 60 countries. It also provides an outlet for visitors to the parks, as well as the general public, to help protect wildlife. The Fund commits 100 percent of donations to on-the-ground wildlife conservation efforts.

Research and Shared Knowledge: SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment has a long-standing commitment to animal research. In addition to funding, the parks provide a controlled

environment for research. Studies of the parks' animals complement and strengthen research efforts in the field. The parks work closely with leading scientists, including the independent Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute (HSWRI). The non-profit research institution was established by the founders of SeaWorld in 1963, even before the first park opened its doors, with a mission to "return to the sea some measure of the benefits derived from it."

Successful Breeding Programs and Research: Many of the species that call SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment home were born at the parks. The success of these breeding programs is evidence of healthy and well-adapted animals, and the data gained has added immeasurably to the scientific understanding of marine mammal biology and reproductive physiology.

At the SeaWorld parks, more than 80 percent of the marine mammals were born in our care. SeaWorld has established thriving breeding programs for most all of the species in its care, including killer whales, dolphins and sea lions.

Busch Gardens currently participates in more than 35 Species Survival Plans (SSPs), collaborative efforts among Association of Zoos & Aquariums-accredited zoological institutions to help protect and preserve threatened and endangered animals for generations to come. Some of the animals bred at Busch Gardens in accordance with SSP guidelines include the cheetah, African lion, Bengal tiger, Western lowland gorilla, Bornean orangutan, black rhinoceros, chimpanzee and Grevy's zebra.

The parks' acclaimed veterinarians also operate the SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Reproductive Research Center, a collaborative resource that pioneers technology and research to help with the management and conservation of wildlife and ensure genetic diversity in captive populations throughout the world.

Animal Ambassador Program: The parks' animals also serve as ambassadors. More than 385 animals interact with guests in the parks, and also make numerous media and public appearances throughout the year to raise awareness for conservation and species in danger.

Environmental Partnerships: SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment supports more than 100 environmental organizations worldwide. Ranging from local community initiatives to global wildlife research and conservation programs, these partnerships allow the parks to share animal expertise, strengthen on-the-ground efforts to protect wildlife, and educate millions of people. Just a few of these valued partners include National Wildlife Federation, Conservation International, World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy and National Geographic Society.

SeaWorld San Diego's Oiled Wildlife Care Center is an example of a successful private and public partnership. The 8,000-square-foot complex employs lessons learned from past oil spills to improve wildlife rescue and care. When not being used for oil spill response, the complex houses ill and injured animals being cared for in SeaWorld's Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation program.