



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Animal charity reveals horror of Indonesia's travelling dolphin show

Today the Born Free Foundation has released shocking new images and footage from one of Indonesia's travelling dolphin shows, and announced a call for the Indonesian Government to end this abusive and exploitative practice once and for all.

Alarmed by reports of the shows, the Born Free Foundation dispatched environmental photojournalist Aaron Gekoski to document the horrifying spectacle. His shocking images (<https://bit.ly/2Dgn6yu>) show dolphins forced to perform demeaning tricks in makeshift pools. Staggeringly, these dolphins and other animals are regularly packed up and shipped between locations across the country – and all apparently under permit from the Indonesian Government.

Dr. Chris Draper, Head of Animal Welfare & Captivity for the Born Free Foundation said:

“These are exceptionally complex and sensitive animals, perfectly adapted for life in the ocean. It is unbelievable that they are hauled like baggage from place to place as part of a pitiful travelling show, apparently under permit from by the Indonesian authorities. We are calling on the Government of Indonesia to put a stop to this once and for all, and to work with animal protection groups to find a long-term solution for the unfortunate animals who have been subjected to this abuse”.

The Born Free Foundation is proud to be a member of the Asia for Animals coalition, a group of 20 animal protection groups that have a shared focus on improving the welfare of animals in Asia, and would like to recognise the efforts of Jakarta Animal Aid Network (JAAN), Animals Asia, Scorpion Foundation, Movement to End Animal Circuses in Indonesia, The Dolphin Project and other members of the Coalition in raising awareness of the abuse of dolphins in travelling shows.

Born Free is asking people to declare their support for an end to abuse of dolphins in Indonesia by signing a letter to the Indonesian Government, urging them to put an end to these travelling shows once and for all visit. **To add your voice, visit <https://www.bornfree.org.uk/stop-travelling-dolphin-shows>**

-ENDS-

Images: Available from: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/pp8iqodm88h54o7/AABzUCL4PDtT0Cjyz5M3jfW-a?dl=0>

All images must credit Aaron Gekoski

Interviews: Interviews with Chris Draper, Head of Animal Welfare and Captivity at Born Free, are available. Please contact Gemma Hook at gemma.hook@pmwcom.co.uk / 01403 783 400 to organise.

About Born Free:

Born Free's mission is to ensure that all wild animals, whether living in captivity or in the wild, are treated with compassion and respect and are able to live their lives according to their needs. Born Free opposes the exploitation of wild animals in captivity and campaigns to keep wildlife in the wild.

Born Free promotes Compassionate Conservation to enhance the survival of threatened species in the wild and protect natural habitats while respecting the needs of and safeguarding the welfare of individual animals. Born Free seeks to have a positive impact on animals in the wild and protect their ecosystems in perpetuity, for their own intrinsic value and for the critical roles they play within the natural world. **For more information about Born Free please visit: www.bornfree.org.uk**

For all Born Free press enquiries please contact Gemma Hook:

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