



WILD FACTS

CAPTIVE ANIMALS



Crew News June 2018

Hi Alex,

Long sunny days are perfect to get outside and investigate the wild. Take a look in your garden, local park or woods, or how about a nearby pond, river or beach? But please check with your parent or guardian first and always take great care around water! This Crew News we're looking at aquatic life and meeting some Born Free dolphins. These intelligent, sensitive, playful beings swim in the sea but are mammals just like you and me!

From

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Muddy with Hiccup

Meet Muddy

Muddy lives in the Moray Firth, a North Sea inlet near Inverness, Scotland. With 500 miles of coastline, the firth is home to over 500 bottlenose dolphins including 3.5m long Muddy. Born in 1989 to mum Guinness, she's had seven calves of her own including Hiccup born in 2014 and new baby Moonshine born in October 2016.

The dolphins are monitored by our friends at the Cetacean Research and Rescue Unit, who operate a rescue ambulance and boat for dolphins and seals in need. The Moray Firth is a haven for wildlife but is disturbed by exploration for oil and gas, and increasing development such as new marinas which mean a lot more boats. It is so important to help protect Muddy's ocean home. Please carefully pick up any litter you see on the beach and encourage family and friends to get involved.

Tom and Misha's tale



Tom and Misha go wild

Just six years old when caught from the Aegean Sea in 2005, Tom and Misha the bottlenose dolphins spent five years in a small dolphinarium, before being sent to a tiny 11x22m pool in southern Turkey. Sickly and distressed they drifted around in filthy water and were fed frozen fish. Oblivious to their suffering, misguided tourists paid £50 to swim with them.

Luckily Tom and Misha's plight came to Born Free's attention and in September 2010 we rescued them. Over 20 months of rehabilitation they grew strong and healthy in a vast sea-pen, learning to catch live fish. They were returned to the wild in May 2012 and raced off into the blue, heading towards their native waters where they were originally caught.



Springer when rescued



Springer today with her calves

Springer's story

Springer is an 'orca', a species also known as killer whales but actually the largest species of dolphin. Back in 2002, Springer was just a baby when found all alone near Seattle, USA. She'd become lost when her mother died and there was pressure from the dolphinarium industry to capture Springer and 'keep her safe in captivity'.

But amazingly she was identified by her unique calls and taken 250 miles, by boat, back to a sea-pen near OrcaLab, Canada. Born Free has supported OrcaLab since 1994 as they study and protect wild orca. Sound travels well in water and as Springer called out, her wild family came and collected her. Springer has lived wild and free ever since. In 2013 she gave birth to her own baby, called Spirit, and in 2017 her second calf was born – wonderful!



Forced to do silly tricks in captivity

You can help dolphins this summer!

Sadly, throughout the world dozens of orca and thousands of dolphins [live in captivity](#). Kept in tiny concrete tanks they're trained to perform unnatural tricks. But in the wild some dolphin species can dive down to 300m and swim 100 miles a day. Imagine how captive orca and dolphin must suffer! They belong in the wild with their families. Please encourage your friends and family to never visit a dolphinarium.



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