



Animal Welfare Institute

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Dr. Gerald Dick, Executive Director
Executive Office of the World Association of Zoos and Aquarium (WAZA)
IUCN Conservation Centre
Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland
SWITZERLAND
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Dear Dr. Dick:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute. We understand you have received correspondence from the Elsa Nature Conservancy and other Japanese animal protection groups, asking you to take stronger action to sanction those of your members who continue to acquire dolphins for their collections from the drive hunt in Taiji. We also understand that to date you have not taken any significant action against those members.

The acquisition of dolphins from this source clearly violates the WAZA Code of Ethics. WAZA has made a clear and strong statement against acquiring dolphins from drive hunts: "[T]he catching of dolphins by the use of a method known as 'drive fishing' is considered an example of...a non-acceptable capture method." This seems to be a situation where a member's persistent refusal to adhere to WAZA's policy could and should be clear grounds for expelling that member.

It is very clear that the current level of disapproval from peers and professional associations such as WAZA has been insufficient to prevent certain zoos and aquariums, including those who are part of the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums (JAZA), from acquiring dolphins from drive hunts. We therefore urge you strongly to take the next step and expel those members who refuse to meet the ethical standards clearly and unambiguously established by WAZA. It may seem a drastic measure, but the dolphins off the coast of Taiji continue to suffer unimaginable cruelty. WAZA's failure to sanction members who remain involved in perpetuating this hunt undermines its credibility as an adequate monitor of zoo and aquarium animal welfare. We urge you to act.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this situation.

Sincerely,

Naomi A. Rose, Ph.D.
Marine Mammal Scientist

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