

Steve Heapy
Chief Executive Officer
Jet2 and Jet2holidays

19 October 2023

Via e-mail: Steve.Heapy@jet2.com

Dear Mr Heapy:

It is shameful that despite the clear evidence of prolonged mental, physical, and social stress endured by cetaceans held captive for entertainment, Jet2holidays has failed these animals by choosing to continue to support marine amusement parks and profit from their misery.

As a group of scientists, conservationists, and organisations focused on cetacean welfare, we implore you to end your support of marine parks that hold these animals prisoner. It is impossible for an amusement park to provide captive cetaceans with a life comparable to that which these far-ranging marine mammals would experience in nature. It is barbaric to force them to perform relentless shows filled with demeaning, uncomfortable tricks and to interact with humans against their will for a mere photo.

Whales and dolphins held in cramped concrete tanks for tourist entertainment suffer every day and are denied the opportunity to engage in natural behaviour like diving deep, swimming long distances, or choosing a mate. Many individuals display stereotypic behaviour – like pattern swimming – that is not seen in their wild counterparts and is a sign of mental distress. The vast majority of cetaceans exploited at marine parks die decades short of their natural lifespan.

By failing to take a stand against animal suffering, Jet2holidays is on the wrong side of history. Canada, Chile, France, India, and other countries have banned the keeping of whales and dolphins in captivity for entertainment. Dozens of leading travel companies, like Expedia and Club Med, have already taken the compassionate step to drop marine parks, and Parliament has just created a law to prevent companies from promoting tourist activities abroad that cause animal suffering.

We ask that you spare a thought for individuals like Moana the orca, who died this week at a facility Jet2holidays promotes. He spent his short life in a filthy dolphinarium tank at Marineland in France swimming in endless circles in algae-covered water. Moana was made to perform for over a decade before his health declined and he died, with discoloured skin and sub-dermal wounds. Please ensure that Jet2holidays turns its back on the practice of exploiting more cetaceans like him.

We, the undersigned, urge Jet2holidays to drop all marine park promotions and immediately end ticket sales.

Yours sincerely,



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**
UNITED KINGDOM

Dr Heather Rally, wildlife veterinarian