# Animal Abuse

Amber Rayes

Centennial High School

**Abstract**

This paper explains the affects that animal abuse has on people and animals. The paper starts off by explaining what unjust living conditions SeaWorld puts their marine life through and how it puts their staff at risk. Then continues into how horrific animal testing is in labs and how tests use tax payers money for funds. Lastly, it informs the reader about dogfights and how domestic animal abuse could lead to criminal records.

**Animal abuse**

Animals used for human entertainment are mismanaged within their corporations. For example, SeaWorld parks and entertainment host thousands of visitors a year, little do sight-seers know that they house their marine life in unacceptable living conditions. With the help from organizations like SeaWorld of Hurt, other web sites, protests, and other public announcements, the public can be shown what unjust actions SeaWorld puts their animals through. Furthermore, inspectors and visitors have recently noticed that dolphins are obtaining peculiar, painful looking splotches along their bodies. These odd marks are very similar to chicken pox humans get. This disease is also known as dolphin pox. Enclosures marine animals live in are not sanitary, which causes them to become sick. "[The Dolphin Pox virus](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1320012/) is caused by water quality and stress through environmental factors which are aggravated by captivity " (Cetacean News Network, 2014). Could this disease spread to the other dolphins in the enclosures? SeaWorld is not giving their marine life enough attention or care to fulfill a proper, healthy living environment thus putting their animals lives, or worse their visitors lives in danger.

Every night when SeaWorld closes they put on a fireworks show, terrorizing their animals. "[T]he marine theme park bombards the captives… with noisy fireworks displays every single night, all summer long, and to the animals, they sound like a war is raging" (Fireworks Wreak Havoc, 2014). Animals swim around franticly and bump their heads on the walls of their enclosures because marine animals use echolocation to navigate. Echolocation is animals "bouncing sonar waves off other objects to determine shape, density, distance, and location. So the reverberation from fireworks must be confusing and maddening" (Fireworks Wreak Havoc, 2014). In putting on firework shows every night SeaWorld is endangering hundreds of marine lives.

On top of abusing marine life and putting their health in danger, places like SeaWorld also put their trainers in danger. There have been many cases where animals become anxious from disproportionate enclosure sizes that they take it out on their trainers, leaving them seriously injured or dead. "…animals of such great size [that live in] severely inadequate tanks lead to miserable lives of desperation and frustration-and dangerous conditions for SeaWorld staffers" (SeaWorldofHurt, 2012). One of the biggest publicly known cases SeaWorld encountered was the murder of trainer Dawn Brancheau in 2010. Orca Tilikum killed the trainer in front of visitors at SeaWorld park by pulling her into the water by her ponytail. The corporation tried covering up the story to the public as "whale play getting out of hand". But, Brancheau's autopsy proved opposite of that. "[Her] left arm and part of her scalp were ripped off. She suffered spinal cord injuries, and her ribs as well as bones in her legs, arms, and face were broken. She had bruises and cuts all over her body." (SeaWorldofHurt, 2012). Her injuries were much more than consequences of harmless play. "These were not love bites, but the vented fury of an angry and frustrated being who has been deprived of everything in life: family, friends, freedom—all for the sake of human profit and a few giggles” (PETA President [Ingrid E. Newkirk](http://blog.peta.org/archives/2010/02/until_seaworld_shuts__down.php)).

Secondly, animals used in labs and experiments are put through cruel and inhumane procedures. Human drugs/medication usually have to be tested on animals before being distributed to the public. One type of test is controlled by suffering and a relief drug. "The USDA breaks down the… category of pain and distress they experience during experiments… Over 97,000 animals, 8.5 percent of the total, experienced unalleviated pain and distress in 2010" (Types of Animals Testing, 2014). The test includes a Control Group, "which …the animals experienced no or momentary pain and distress" (Types of Animals Testing, 2014). The second group "…in [this] experiment did [receive] significant pain and distress, but received medication to relieve or treat the pain" (Types of Animal Testing, 2014). And lastly, the third group "…experienced unalleviated pain and distress as part of the experiment" without any pain relieving drug (Types of Animal Testing, 2014). Just because animals are not human doesn’t mean they can't experience pain and suffering the same way humans can. What do animal tests affect other than animals? Whether you are for or against using animals in labs for testing, peoples tax dollars pay to fund testing. "…the government’s $12 billion a year [goes to the] animal experimentation budget" (Croswell, A. 2014). Also, "…the public …knowingly or unknowingly—fund animal experimentation" (Animal Experiments, 2013). So when people purchase for things like lottery tickets and consumer goods they are unknowingly giving their money to help fund these appalling tests.

Lastly, animal abuse in the united states happens in urban, suburban, and rural areas. During years 2010-2013 there were a total of 3,330 cases of animal abuse reported. Abuse ranges from neglect and abandonment, poisoning, bestiality, shooting, fighting, strangling, and many more (Pet-abuse.com, 2013). Animal abuse is seen with domestic pets, in big corporations for human entertainment, and for the advancement of humans. Animal abuse is common in domestic house pets, mostly seen in dogs (64%) and cats (36%) (Animal Cruelty Facts and Statistics, 2011) . But, what most people don't know is that animal cruelty and human violence go hand and hand. People who neglect and/or abuse their house hold pets can often have criminal records later in life. "A 2001-2004 study by the Chicago Police Department "revealed a startling propensity for offenders charged with crimes against animals to commit other violent offenses toward human victims."  Of those arrested for animal crimes, 65% had been arrested for battery against another person" (Animal Cruelty and Human Violence, 2011). On top of this, attackers also use animal abuse as a motive for holding people hostage. "In both domestic violence and child-abuse situations, abusers may manipulate and control their human victims through threatened or actual violence against family pets" (Animal Cruelty and Human Violence, 2011). Another type of animal abuse is known as dogfights. A" [dogfight] is a sadistic "contest" in which two dogs—specifically bred, conditioned, and trained to fight—are placed in a pit… (Faron, 1995) to fight until one of the dogs is seriously injured or dead. These fights, which can go on for hours, are used for spectators enjoyment and for gambling. Dogs that are involved are put through countless hours of pain and suffering. For example, "Some dogfighters train dogs by forcing them to tread water in pools [or] run on a treadmill …Many dogs are injected with steroids, and some dogfighters even sharpen their dogs’ teeth, cut off their ears (to prevent another dog from latching on), and add roach poison to their food so that their fur might taste bad to other dogs" (PETA, dogfighting). The most common type of dog used for dogfights is "the American pit bull terrier-type dogs [they] have… extremely powerful jaws, they are able to inflict severe bruising, deep puncture wounds, and broken bones" (Faron, 1995).

Now people might say, "why are dogfights so bad? It's not like they have a direct affect on me". Dogfights not only hurt dogs, but they also have an effect on people present or in the vicinity of the fights."Dogfighting has also been connected to other kinds of violence—even homicide…" (Faron, 1995). There are usually firearms present during fights because of gambling and large amounts of money present. But, the most outrageous part about dogfighting is that "young children are sometimes present … '[c]hildren are exposed to exhibits of extreme brutality, illegal gambling, drugs, and guns associated with these cruel events.'" Children being exposed to this, having the chance of getting shot, and even mimicking this behavior later in life is completely horrendous. Dogfight abuse has a big affect on not only animals, but also people.

Ultimately, animal abuse is a lot bigger than most people realize. It affects each person with, or without them knowing. Abuse is not only seen with domestic pets, but also in dogfights, corporations like SeaWorld, and in laboratories for testing human products on animals.

**References**

*Animal Cruelty and Human Violence*. (2011). Retrieved Septermber 20, 2014, from Humane Society: www.humanesociety.org/issues/abuse\_neglect/qa/cruelty\_violence\_connection\_faq.html

*Animal Cruelty Facts and Statistics*. (2011). Retrieved September 20, 2014, from Humane Society: http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/abuse\_neglect/facts/animal\_cruelty\_facts\_statistics.html

*Animal Experiments: Overview*. (2013). Retrieved 10 16, 2014, from PETA: www.peta.org/issues/animals-used-for-experimentation/animals-used-experimentation-factsheets/animal-experiments-overview/

Croswell, A. (2014, 1 6). *5 Ways Animal Testing Hurts Humans*. Retrieved 10 16, 2014, from One Green Planet: http://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/5-ways-animal-testing-hurts-humans/

*Dogfighting*. (n.d.). Retrieved 10 16, 2014, from PETA: www.peta.org/issues/animals-in-entertainment/cruel-sports/dogfighting/

Faron. (1995). *Dogfighting*. Retrieved September 20, 2014, from Humane Society: www.humanesociety.org/issues/dogfighting/facts/dogfighting\_fact\_sheet.html

*Fireworks Wreak Havoc With SeaWorld’s Captives*. (2014, June 24). Retrieved September 2014, 2014, from SeaWorldofHurt: http://www.seaworldofhurt.com/fireworks-wreak-havoc-seaworlds-captives/

*SeaWorld Fights to Get Trainers Back into Tanks and Fails*. (2012). Retrieved September 20, 2014, from SeaWorldofHurt: www.seaworldofhurt.com/seaworld-fault-trainers-death/

*Shocking SeaWorld Autopsy Report Shows Massive Injuries*. (2010). Retrieved September 20, 2014, from PETA: http://www.seaworldofhurt.com/fireworks-wreak-havoc-seaworlds-captives/

*Types if Animal Testing*. (2014). Retrieved March 4, 2014, from aavs: http://www.aavs.org/site/c.bkLTKfOSLhK6E/b.6457299/k.82D0/Types\_of\_Animal\_Testing.htm#.UwaBZ4X6TTo

*Yearly Animal Abuse Report*. (2013). Retrieved 10 16, 2014, from Pet-Abuse.com: http://www.pet-abuse.com/pages/cruelty\_database/statistics/yearly\_animal\_abuse\_report.php?state=&year=2013&search=go