

# Animals should not be used for entertainment



## Discussion questions

1. Are the lives of working animals in zoos, circuses, and other shows respected? Are they exploited for profits?
2. Can animals ever be used for positive educational purposes?
3. Can the public develop a new sense of understanding and appreciation of animals if they are used for their agility, sense of smell, and unique abilities?
4. Circus animals, for instance, are very well trained and have an army of people caring for them, why can this not continue?
5. Have you ever been to a show where animals were used as entertainment?
6. For example at a circus, SeaWorld, bullfighting, fishing, or another event?
7. Do animals have emotions and memories?
8. Should zoos be shut down? What would replace them?
9. Are there any animals which are of equal intelligence to people?
10. If you were looking after animals in a zoo or circus how would you know they are looked after well? What rules would you have?

## Statistics—True or false? (answers on the next page)

1. It is estimated that there are over 160 million donkeys, mules, horses, and buffaloes working around the world.
2. A German Shepard called Gunter IV is worth more than \$375,000 as a result of his owner dying and passing on their wealth.
3. In 2018, the number of Americans aged between 18 - 29 who visited a circus in the last 12 months was 43% of all visitors.
4. In 2018, there are approximately 200 million cats (as pets) in the world.
5. The first elephant to appear in British circus performed at Covent Garden in 1890.



## Useful vocabulary

1. Adaptiveness - to change to a new situation
2. Shallower - water that is not deep, opposite or deep water
3. Cerebral cortex - part of the brain
4. Pods - a group of dolphins
5. Abundance - a lot of something
6. Echolocation - to find object by using sound
7. Precision - to do something with great detail and care

## Reading - The Exceptional Abilities of Dolphins

On Earth there are few animals for which we can say are intelligent, except perhaps for the dolphin. Scientists have proven their self-awareness, reason, capability for emotions, **adaptiveness**, and even altruism.

Their brain is the root of their intellect. Unlike humans, dolphins have **shallower** folds which means their **cerebral cortex** is 40% larger than that of humans while also having a greater volume.

Being social animals they live in large **pods** or schools where there could be up to a hundred other dolphins. On occasion, pods sometimes merge together into 'superpods' when there is an **abundance** of food.

Dolphins use four senses to navigate the oceans, they are; vision, **echolocation**, taste, and touch. They integrate information from their surroundings at very high speed and within a 3D environment.

Studies have shown that dolphins can match simple and complex shapes with great **precision**. In some experiments, dolphins were given 16 pairs of complex shapes to memorise and then match. The test resulted in the mammals to pass with more than 90% accuracy.

Another skill which indicates intelligence is the ability to recognise yourself in a mirror and to then investigate the reflection. Dolphins, which are in a minority of animals, possess this ability and can even recognise family members. In experiments, placing a non-toxic ink on their bodies, the dolphins then go to a mirror to see what the mark is and where it is on their bodies.

With dolphins clearly showing high levels of cognitive ability, many are hoping to find ways to communicate with them using computer technology. Who knows what the future will bring with interspecies communications.

## Answers

1. True (femalefirst.co.uk, 2017)
2. True (CountryLiving.com, 2018)
3. False, it's 8.45% (Statistica, 2018)
4. False, it's 600 million (WorldAtlas.com, 2018)
5. False, 1810 (HuffPost 2015)