

SOME ASPECTS OF DOLPHIN BEHAVIOR IN CAPTIVITY

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Dolphins in captivity exhibit peculiar behavior in two situations as follows: (1) during heavy shower and (2) in the last minutes of life before death from pneumonia. In the first case the dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) displays some peculiar respiration pattern. During heavy shower, the dolphin surfaces to inhale and exhale in an almost vertical position to the streams of rain. The animal starts to exhale before the blowhole emerges from the water. As a result, a white water cupola is formed behind the dolphin's back. The moment the blowhole emerges from the water, the dolphin inhales. In the second situation a wild *Tursiops truncatus* or *Delphinus delphis* does not react to an approaching human, reaches the shore, jumps out of the water to lie down on the bottom so that the blowhole can remain in the air. If the dolphin is pushed down, it describes a circle to get back to the shore. This behavior accounts for the appearance of dolphins on beaches and their throwing themselves ashore.