

TODAY

20 October 2011

RWS' dolphins are for economic greed, not conservation

Letter from Ann Marie Chua

I beg to differ with Mr Neil Wilkinson, in his letter "We should support RWS' Marine Life Park" (Oct 18).

I do not know what surveys he had done to say that people against the captivity of wild dolphins in Resorts World Sentosa are in the minority.

Everyone I have spoken to about the captive dolphins were either ignorant of the matter or appalled.

Those in the former group soon became appalled. None of us are animal activists. There is nothing admirable about what Resorts World Sentosa is doing, either in effect or intention. If it had captured the dolphins to aid conservation efforts, people would not be up in arms.

What it is doing is for economic greed and vainglory. What it has done has already resulted in two dolphin deaths.

Animals become depressed when they are taken from their natural habitats to artificial environments and are forced to perform for people, so much so that they have to be given anti-depressant drugs.

Even if dolphins die in the wild, it is from natural causes, and there is nothing humans would have done deliberately to cause harm to these creatures, who are incredibly intelligent and fully capable of feeling physical, psychological and emotional pain.

That Singapore has the largest oceanarium, and that our government can enable such cruelty to be subjected on innocent animals, is a source of shame rather than pride to me.

This is not what I want Singapore to be put on the map for, and I will not support RWS insofar as it acts with disregard to life.