

Seaworld's whale attraction

Tilikum or more commonly known as 'Tili' has been at home in SeaWorld for nearly two decades. He was transported from another marine park in Canada from which they caught him off the coast of Iceland in 1983. From this he started a career in performing shows in front of thousands of people.

In his life time he has killed a total of three people Dawn Brancheau, Keltie Byrne and Daniel Dukes. He killed his trainers during a live performance at sea world in February 2010 in Orlando Florida. The incident was caught on video by several people and the events shocked the park.

Tili is also known to have been part of a documentary "Blackfish" which illustrates violence in killer whales and the effects on keeping whales in captivity. The documentary was based on Tilikum.

The park is now making their tanks two times bigger however they say it was not because of the documentary. The film was popular but the number of visitors decreased when the film was released because people started to realise how horrible keeping



(Dawn and Tili during their very last performance together before the tragic accident)

whales in captivity was and the effects it can have on them.

However when Dawn was killed there was an increasing amount of visitors to pay their respects to her because she died doing what she loved and what she had wanted to do since she was little.



The huge whale attraction is due to do its very last show at the end of 2016.



It has now been stated that the most famous killer whale in Florida is dying of a disease that is soon to take his life. It is thought that he is battling a lung infection and several other diseases and it is not uncommon for a whale of his age, (approximately 35 years old) and he is being treated for it but the bacteria that is thought to be in lungs is extremely resistant to medication and unfortunately a cure has not yet been found for it.

According to his vets Tili's behaviour has changed over the past couple of weeks and his health is becoming an extreme worry for the keepers as it continues to get worse. They are focused on caring and controlling the bacteria to make it comfortable before his death.

By Eva

