



## **UNIDAD EDUCATIVA PARTICULAR JAVIER**

### **BACCALAUREATE IN SCIENCE**

“Analysis of Quality of Life of Captive Animals in Zoos and Theme Parks””

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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

First of all I would like to thank God for giving me all the skills I needed to write this document and completing it to the best of my capacity. I would also like to thank my parents who have always supported me in everything I have done and for believing in my abilities. Everything they have taught me has been both valuable and useful to me as it has prepared and allowed me to face and deal with all the problems life has presented me with, and I am sure that I will also be able to face whatever may come next.

Finally, but not less important, I would like to thank my teachers for helping me through the process of the elaboration of this investigative paper. I am grateful for the faith they have bestowed upon me.

## **SUMMARY**

Even though the animal captivity is something that thousand of countries practice all around the world, doesn't mean people is completely aware of the quality of life those animals have in those places where they are caged. In this investigation, the objective is to demonstrate that zoos or theme parks with animals are not as safe as they claim. Over time, we can find a number of failures or terrible accidents caused by the terrible administration and organization the caretakers have in these industries.

Animals deserve to live free in their habitats, not locked in cages. If people decide to remove them from their homes to expose them publicly, at least they should consider to give them the facilities and attention they need to have an stable life.

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## INTRODUCTION

In the document presented, it is the author's intention to bring awareness as well as to bring awareness stress the importance which animal captivity should be given. Her proposal, as her absolute uttermost goal is to raise awareness as to the reality of the state in which animals held in captivity as well as to shed light on the reality lived by these animals on a daily basis. Furthermore, to enhance our consciousness to reality of the abuses and overall mistreatment suffered by those used to draw crowds and entertain when the tourists are not present and the doors are barred.

Nowadays, most of the society think that zoos or amusement parks which offer entertainment and shows performed by animals are places which aid and protect animals as well as offer them security and support. Honestly, there are some of them which do, nevertheless it has come to the attention of some that there are on the other hand places which still exist limiting themselves to using these beautiful creatures and exploiting them, show after show simply to gain from the many tourist that flock to see them. Those who attend have no way of knowing the reality which occurs behind closed doors. Those who simply fill their pockets thanks to the attending crowds have been found to give little care as to the physical or emotional status of this creatures.

According to the report carried out for Living Planet (2016): “The populations of vertebrates decrease in a measure of 2% every year, which involves that in 2020 we will have lost the 67% of the animal population”. As, she believes we still have time to remedy this commonly carried out cruelty. She is adamant in the fact that by making even the smallest changes we can bring about big differences in the lives of God’s creatures.

The author opted for conducting a survey to the students of third baccalaureate of the Unidad Educativa Javier with the purpose of collecting the data in reference to their feelings and opinions and then analyzing the grade of importance this topic holds for those of her same age on the treatment of animals held in captivity. The survey was conducted online, with the objective of being faster, easier and more efficient as well as offering the possibility to establish, tabulate and offer the graphic results successfully. In this manner it is visually possible to better present the results.

Finally, the author has divided her investigation in three chapters, which is presented in the clearest form possible so that any doubt may be discarded as to its findings. Within these chapters, the analysis of the treatment given to these captive animals at the hands of their caretakers. The reader will also be made aware of the main requests presented by various animal care centers as well as a clear description of the different laws which presently exist, either for or against animal captivity in our country.

## CHAPTER I

### Analysis of the care given to captive animals by caretakers

#### 1.1 Environment and installation

A zoo is a place or institution where animals are locked up in cages and placed on exhibit for the general public. Although in many of the larger facilities, the animals are presented to the public in large open enclosures so that they be better viewed. Nevertheless, once the gates close to the public, the animals are generally grouped and packed into small confinement. Anyone who might find themselves visiting a zoo would most probably believe that the animals they are visiting are treated well, Are offered an environment appropriate and suited to their specific needs. Unfortunately, around the world there are many zoos which do not meet the requirements in the least and keep the animals in poor conditions, rarely do they take into consideration the needs of captive creatures, and this has negative affect on these poor animals.

We could mention some examples from the Chapultepec Zoo that show how the installations of that place affect the animals:

- In July 2013, an ex employee of the zoo revealed that camels were being put in cages where the floor wasn't of nor was covered in sand or grass, something these giants animals require. She said that the cage was so small that camels remained

physically inactive and that's why their humps were deformed. She also explained that the zoo was so inconsiderate with the natural needs of these animals, even to allow them to feel anything other than threatened that they even placed the cages of the natural predators right in front of the cages of their prey, causing their acute desperation to manifest their fear on their eyes and expressions of complete terror.

- The same ex employee manifested that animals also suffered from depression due to the solitary confinement and the lack of having company within the walls of their enclosure.
- In July 2015, an orangutan died of leptospirosis, which is an illness caused by a bacteria that comes from the soil and water provided by the caretakers.
- In August 2016, a male bison died after falling in a pit inside his cage.

## **1.2 Feeding**

The zoos that feed their animals correctly are those that give them a good nutritional diet considering the gender, species and age of the animal. There are zoos like Smithsonian National Zoo that have specific menus for each animal. In this facility, they take the time to and care enough to investigate. It's important for animals be well fed because they will need all the proteins and nutrients food provides to them so they can function, and perform all their normal activities without any problem.

Feeding become a problem when an animal doesn't want to eat the food caretakers provide because they opt for force feeding them medicine which will open



their appetites and the animals then find themselves ingesting the food. Nonetheless, these medicines often have secondary effects that may bring complications to the animals' health.

On the other hand, there are other zoos that have no interest in preparing balanced diets for their animals and they just give them the same food all day or worse, they sometime feed them other animals. There is no justification for zoos to state that animals may be fed in this manner because it is their nature or based on the food chain. Many zoos have been criticized for exhibiting how live animals are put in the cage of a carnivorous animal and see how they eat them. People think it could be harmful for kids to see that and it's totally unnecessary.

### **1.3 Techniques of routine management of wild animals**

There are some methods that caretakers use to train their animals:

- For the elephants it's common to use a bull hook, which is basically a stick with a hook on the tip. Caretakers nail these thing in the legs of the elephants to make them feel pain. In that way the elephants will be afraid of the bull hook and they bend to the wikkll of the trainer to avoid punishment.
- For the big felines and bears, whips are commonly used. This is the most common tool used to lash at the animal, similar to the bull hook use don elephants. It is used with the sole purpose to hurt the animals and make them understand who is the boss and to whom they should demonstrate obedience.

- A method used not only in zoos but also in the movie industry and those who train the animals to work in the circus environment is the taser gun. This weapon is used specially for big animals. It makes them understand that if they obey, what the trainers want them to do, they will be punished by receiving electric shocks.
- For the animals in aquariums like dolphins or killer whales, trainers use the horrible technique of starving the animal into obedience. Basically it consists in retaining all food sources until they succumb to performing the tricks desired by the trainer and caretaker.

#### **1.4 Care measures when a baby animal is born**

Responsibility for the well-being and life of an animal is a job which requires experience and care, but it is even more difficult to offer the care required in raising and keeping an animal in good health over an extended period of time and that is even more true when it comes to raising newborns in captivity. First, caretakers should be prepared for any unnatural situation because if the newborn with an illness or deformity, the mother will refuse him/her and try to kill him/her.

There are some behavior animals tend to change when they are in captivity and this include the things mothers have to do when they give birth, reason for which caretakers have to know exactly what to do with the baby. For example: baby pandas have defecation problems when they are born, so caretakers have to simulate they're the mother of the baby pandas and tap on their belly to help them defecate.

Another problem is when zoos promote inbreeding reproduction which is to mate two animals with the same genetic composition. This could bring several consequences for the baby animal like illnesses or genetic defects.

### **1.5 Preventive measures to be taken to safeguard both animals and tourists**

“Yes, it makes sense for nations to plan for tourism, carefully regulating the industry and the infrastructure that comes with it”. (Bramwell, 1998, p. 361-379)

There are some main rules about animal and tourist care in which many zoos coincide:

- There are not allowed dangerous things which can hurt animals in any way.
- It's prohibited to consume alcohol, drugs or smoke a cigarette inside the zoo.
- It's totally necessary that everyone who is visiting the zoo should stay quiet so as not to disturb the animals. Screaming and loud noises are forbidden.
- There is no way to accept the entry of any domestic pet.
- Tourists can't have any contact with animals without the supervision or permission of an employee of the zoo, this includes feeding them.
- It's important that children must be supervised by an adult.
- No littering. All garbage material must be placed in the proper containers and must never be thrown into the animal cages or enclosures.
- All flash photography is forbidden as it may disturb the animals.

## CHAPTER II

### Main requests presented by animals care centers

#### 2.1 OSHA vs Sea World

Sea World is a name everyone held in high regard for its special treatment of marine life as well as for its spectacular attractions and shows. Its reputation was impeccable, all children of all ages as well as adults always wanted to go at least once to see the spectacular animals and the incredible shows. The park was at its peak, but that all came tumbling down with the arrival of Tilikum.

Tilikum was a big killer whale that brought the park the best and worst times. This huge killer whale assassinated 3 trainers, each occurring on different dates, and causing a lot of problems for the company of Sea World. The controversy was so big that many people got together to make a film that expose all the horrible things killer whales and trainers had to overcome in their workdays at Sea World. This film was titled “Blackfish”.

In this film, we can see the fight of OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) vs Sea World. The case disputed was called was the Dawn Brancheu case on February 24 of 2010. The woman was assassinated by Tilikum. The killer whale pulled her to the bottom of the pool so she drowned herself.

Sea World was shielding saying Branchu was at fault because she wore pony tail at that moment. In disagreement, many trainers who witnessed the event gave affirmation that Dawn had run out of food to feed Tilikum. When you don't feed the animal indicating that

he was doing what he was told to do correctly, he will think he is doing something wrong. That happened with Tilikum, he became desperate thinking he was doing things wrong and when Branchau got into the pool to do the final act, the killer whale drowned her.

Branchau's various- numerous demands against Sea World and took them to court. These demands were difficult to win in court, even with as much evidence as they had in their favor, but Sea World had millions on their side and it could have dragged on for ages. In the end, the result was that Sea World would continue to open its doors to the public, yet the trainers would be limited as far as the grade of contact they were to have with the animals in the future. From that day forward, the trainers are separated from the animals by a long barrier. They no longer participate or present shows within the pools.

“OSHA's intent has been to ensure the safety and health of employees who work with SeaWorld's killer whales in performances. In his decision, the judge has upheld the OSHA citations. That is a win for the employees of SeaWorld.” (Michaels, 2011)

## **2.2 PETA vs Metropolitan Zoo**

On May 21 of 2016, two lions were slaughtered because a man entered naked in their cage in an attempted suicide. This incident took place in the Metropolitan Zoo of Chile. When the caretakers of the zoo noticed what was happening, Then chose to use sedatives top ut the lions to sleep, but it did not have the effect hoped for, it was not enough. They then made their decision, killing the two lions in hopes of saving the man.

After the lions death, the man was taken to the hospital and then the zoo caretakers found out that the man truly wanted to commit suicide. They realized this only after having found the suicide note in the man belongings. This horrible incident made many people raise their voices and one of them was PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals). This organization has as its objective to defend animal's rights.

“All the wrong messages are sent when animals are held captive for human amusement, and this story just highlights the many problems involved with depriving wild animals of all that is natural and important to them”. (Prater, 2016)

### **2.3 PETA vs The Cincinnati Zoo**

On May 28 of 2016, a gorilla named Harambe was assassinated because a child entered in his cage in The Cincinnati Zoo, Ohio. That little kid, according to some witnesses, wanted to enter the gorilla's habitat and climbed a 3 meters fence to make it happen. When the caretakers noticed what was happening, they ordered the 3 gorillas to leave the place immediately but only the females obeyed. The male gorilla, Harambe, stayed with the child. He took his leg and started to drag him all over the place. The child's parents were terrified for their child, and again in this case, the zoo had to make the decision to shoot Harambe to save the life of the child.

This incident brought with it great controversy. Many spoke out, not only against the zoo for having had to make the decision to put Harambe down, but also criticizing the child's parents for being the responsible party for not having looked out for their son and his well-

being. Various animal protection associations voiced their opinions about the occurrence, and once again PETA gave its own point of view on the matter at hand.

Galucci (2016) specialist in PETA affirm:

Yet again, captivity has taken an animal's life. The gorilla enclosure should have been surrounded by a secondary barrier between the humans and the animals to prevent exactly this type of incident. Gorillas have shown that they can be protective of smaller living beings and react the same way any human would to a child in danger. Consider Binti Jua, the gorilla who carried a child to a zookeeper's gate. Even under the "best" circumstances, captivity is never acceptable for gorillas or other primates, and in cases like this, it's even deadly. This tragedy is exactly why PETA urges families to stay away from any facility that displays animals as sideshows for humans to gawk at.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **Description of the different laws which exist either for or against animal captivity in our country**

#### **3.1 Organic law of animal wellbeing**

The organic law of animal well-being is a project that has been working on the peace, health and security of animals, especially common pets like dogs and cats. The objective of this law is to build a good relationship between animals and humans and in this manner, assuring that neither one nor the other will be mistreated. This law aims to reach even further than just regulating the control, dissection, use of animals in public shows, as well as sales of animals in the streets, the exhibition of pets in the different stores and more protection for wild animals.

#### **3.2 Law which forbids the participation of wild, native or exotic animals in public shows**

This law was proposed by legislator Andrés Paez. The law's purpose is to prohibit all native or exotics animals from participating in any public shows circus's, exhibits in any capacity, which are for lucrative reasons, with no exceptions. The violation of this law has many consequences.

The National Assembly (2017) affirms:

With regard to sanctions, any natural or juridical person that keeps the species in captivity will be sanctioned with the confiscation of the animals, with the imposition of a fine of



twenty minimum wages to the worker in general and the payment of all the expenses that demands the transfer, feeding, curing and reintegration of confiscated animals in their natural environment.

### **3.3 Comprehensive Criminal Code**

The COIP included new articles that fight of pets in the different stores, more protection for wild animals and animal mistreatment. The articles 249 and 250 appeal against the mistreatment, death and use of dogs for fights.

One of these articles established:

The person that by action or omission causes damage produces injuries, deterioration to the physical integrity of a pet or pet, will be sanctioned with a penalty of 50 to 100 hours of community service. If the animal is killed, the person will be sanctioned with imprisonment for three to seven days.

Many people are happy with the idea of having these new rules implemented which will offer the animals and wildlife of our country protected. Some offered their opinion on the matter

"Although the norm is a bit loose, since in the Assembly follows the debate of the animal protection law, the articles of the COIP are a good start for people to start respecting animals". (Barros, 2014)

## CHAPTER IV

### Basic knowledge of captive animals in the UE Javier

#### 4.1 Survey: “Animals safe or in danger?”

The main objective of this survey is to analyze the knowledge of the students of 6th Baccalaureate A, B, C and D as to the type and quality of life which animals in captivity, either in shows or in zoo. Through this survey we can examine what kind of information students are unaware off as well as to find out what things they believe to be true, but which in actuality aren't.

$$n = \frac{PQN}{(N - 1) \frac{E^2}{K^2} + PQ}$$

n: Sample

PQ: Constant of population variance: 0,25

N: Population

E: Maximum permissible mistakes: 0,05

K: mistake correction coefficient: 2

- Course A:

$$n = \frac{PQN}{(N - 1) \frac{E^2}{K^2} + PQ}$$

$$n = \frac{(0,25 \times 30)}{(30 - 1) \frac{0,05^2}{2^2} + 0,25}$$

$$n = \frac{7,5}{0,268125}$$

$$\mathbf{n = 27,9}$$

- Course B:

$$n = \frac{PQN}{(N - 1) \frac{E^2}{K^2} + PQ}$$

$$n = \frac{(0,25 \times 28)}{(28 - 1) \frac{0,05^2}{2^2} + 0,25}$$

$$n = \frac{7}{0,25375}$$

$$\mathbf{n = 24,48}$$

- Course C:

$$n = \frac{PQN}{(N - 1) \frac{E^2}{K^2} + PQ}$$

$$n = \frac{(0,25 \times 27)}{(27 - 1) \frac{0,05^2}{2^2} + 0,25}$$

$$n = \frac{6,75}{0,26625}$$

$$\mathbf{n = 25,35}$$

- Course D:

$$n = \frac{PQN}{(N - 1) \frac{E^2}{K^2} + PQ}$$

$$n = \frac{(0,25 \times 25)}{(25 - 1) \frac{0,05^2}{2^2} + 0,25}$$

$$n = \frac{6,25}{0,265}$$

$$n = 23,58$$

Chart 1

*Population*

<b>No.</b>	<b>Individuals</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Course A	30
2	Course B	28
3	Course C	27
4	Course D	25

Source: Survey of students of 6th Bacallaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

Chart 2

*Sample*

<b>No.</b>	<b>Individuals</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Course A	28
2	Course B	27
3	Course C	25
4	Course D	24

Source: Survey of students of 6th Bacallaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

### 1.- Course

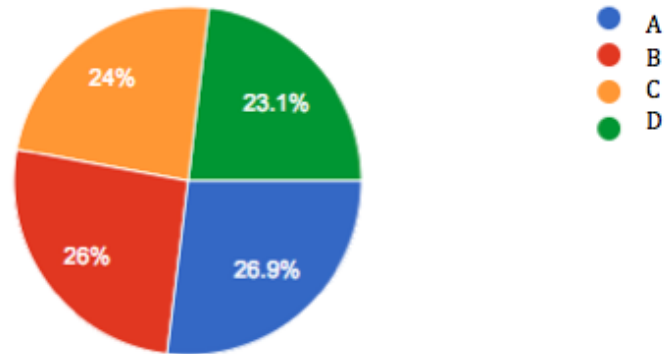


Figure 1: Course

Source: Survey of students of 6th Bacallaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

### Chart 3

#### *Course*

<b>No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Course A	28	26,90%
Course B	27	26%
Course C	25	24%
Course D	24	23,10%

Source: Survey of students of 6th Bacallaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

2. - Have you ever been to a zoo or adventure park where they included shows starring wild and exotic animals?

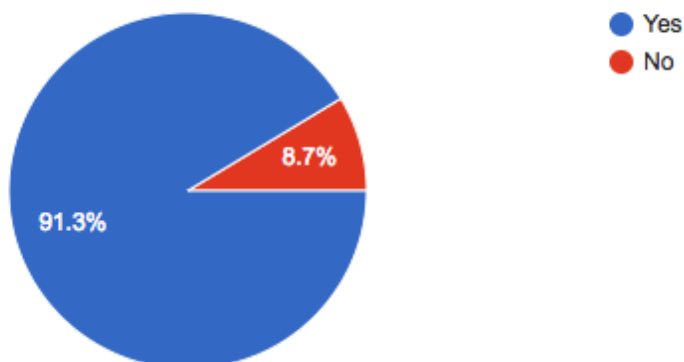


Figure 2: Visiting a Zoo

Source: Survey of students of 6th Bacallaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

Chart 4

*Visiting a Zoo*

<b>No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	95	91,30%
No	9	9%

Source: Survey of students of 6th Bacallaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

3. - Do you have any knowledge of how animals are captured, transported and taken from their natural habitat?

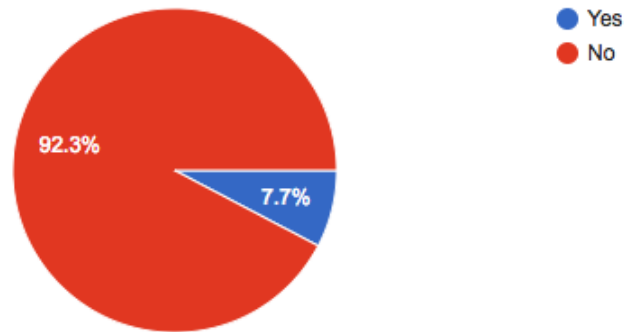


Figure 3: Transfer Process

Source: Survey of students of 6th Baccaulaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

#### Chart 5

#### *Transfer process*

No.	Amount	Percentage
Yes	12	7,70%
No	96	92%

Source: Survey of students of 6th Baccaulaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

4. - Do you have any knowledge about what animals do in their daily life in those places when there is no tourists?

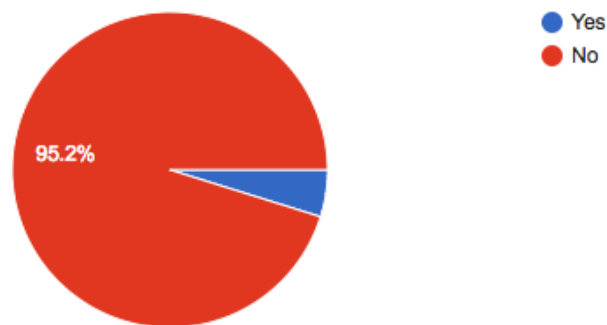


Figure 4: Daily Life

Source: Survey of students of 6th Baccaulaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

Chart 6

*Daily Life*

<b>No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	5	4,80%
No	99	95%

Source: Survey of students of 6th Bacallaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

5.- Do you believe to be informed about animal abused?

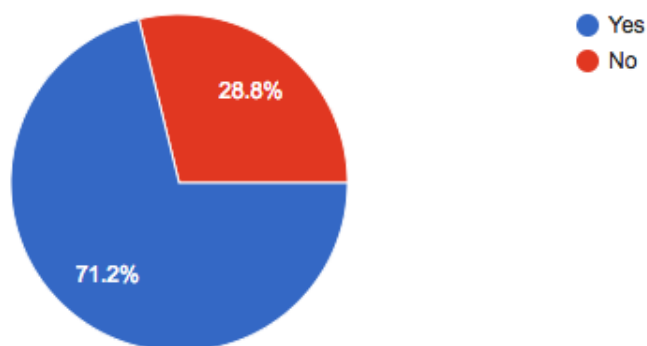


Figure 5: Animal Abuse

Source: Survey of students of 6th Bacallaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

Chart 7

*Animal Abuse*

<b>No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	74	71,20%
No	30	29%

Source: Survey of students of 6th Bacallaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

6. - Do you consider that this is an important topic?



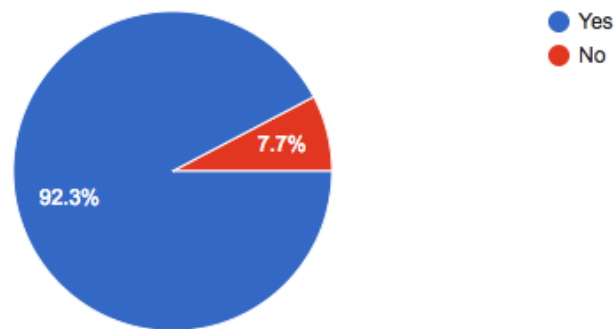


Figure 6: Important Topic

Source: Survey of students of 6th Bacallaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

Chart 8

### *Important Topic*

No.	Amount	Percentage
Yes	96	92,30%
No	8	8%

Source: Survey of students of 6th Bacallaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

7. - Have you ever seen a report, documentary, video or read any article about this topic?

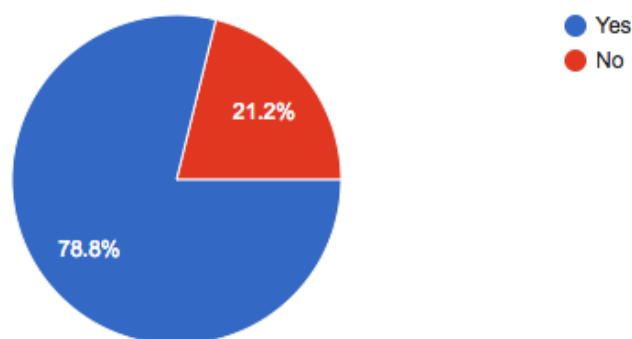


Figure 7: Documentary or reportage about this Topic

Source: Survey of students of 6th Bacallaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

Chart 9

*Documentary or Reportage about this Topic*

<b>No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	82	78,80%
No	22	21%

Source: Survey of students of 6th Bacallaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

8. - Which animal of those offered to choose from, do you think is the most affected in these cases?

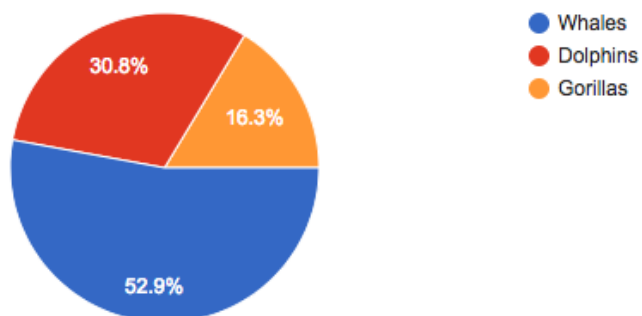


Figure 8: The Most Affected Animal

Source: Survey of students of 6th Bacallaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

Chart 10

*The Most Affected Animal*

<b>No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Whales	55	52,90%
Dolphins	32	31%
Gorillas	17	16%

Source: Survey of students of 6th Bacallaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

9. - In your opinion, Are there any laws that fight against these cases in our country?

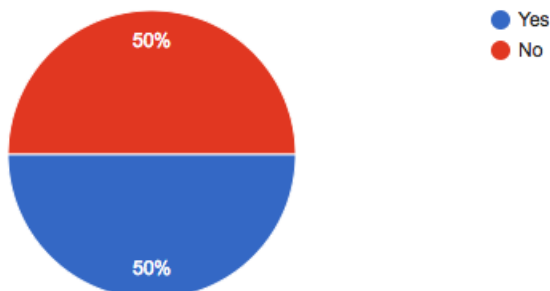


Figure 9: laws that fight this cases

Source: Survey of students of 6th Bacallaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

Chart 11

*Laws that fight this cases*

No.	Amount	Percentage
Yes	52	50,00%
No	52	50%

Source: Survey of students of 6th Bacallaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

10. - Do you consider that zoos or amusement parks that have animals to be dangerous and should be closed?

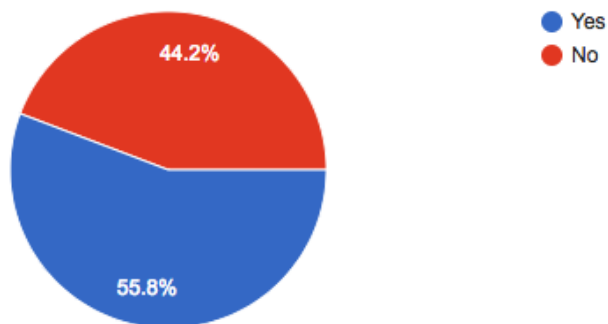


Figure 10: Dangerous Zoo should be closed

Source: Survey of students of 6th Bacallaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

Chart 12

*Dangerous Zoo should be closed*

<b>No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	58	55,80%
No	46	44%

Source: Survey of students of 6th Bacallaureate courses A,B,C and D.

Author: María José Santos

## CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, we could find out that caretakers in the zoos use methods and techniques to feed, train and assist animals that are aggressive and incorrect. Those things make animals increase their levels of fear and depression that can conduce them to death.

Having documentaries like Blackfish and articles about others terrible cases caused by the carelessness of the caretakers, made a number of people react and create different organizations to protest against the captivity of animals.

Moreover, I could conclude that our country has some laws which provide protection and support to animals for avoiding making them pass for those terrible incidents I mention before.

To make the research more accurate, I made a survey where I could conclude that many teenagers of my age think animals are in danger in those places but they do nothing to help them.

## RECOMENDATIONS

I recommend to see the documentary "Blackfish" because it shows you the hard reality whales had to live in Sea World and the things caretakers of that place said about the consequences of working with those animals. I also suggest to read more about the number of accidents in zoos developed around the world. It can open your eyes to the real enviroment animals are condemned to live.

It's really helpfull to watch the videos uploaded by National Geographic too. It brings you the opportunity to look closer the things that happen daily in the animal kingdom.

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