

THE USE OF DOLPHINS IN AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME WITH AUTISTIC CHILDREN

Velde, R. van de, Dolphinarium Brugge, Belgium

A multidisciplinary research project on the use of dolphins in an educational programme with autistic children is presented. The project is carried out in cooperation with "Ter Drave", an institute for autistic and mentally retarded children in Brugge.

This presentation describes why the dolphinarium of Brugge started such a project, how the project began and how we developed a scientifically based research project.

AN EDUCATIONAL COMPUTER PROGRAMMA ON MARINE MAMMALS

Velde, R. van de, Dolphinarium Brugge, Belgium

Nowadays, the computers are one of the most attractive didactical aids in teaching, because of their interactive character.

To stimulate children and adults to test their knowledge of marine mammals or to seek additional information, we developed a simple quiz that can be visualized and carried out with the help of a programme.

CARRYING WHALES AND DOLPHINS INTO THE CLASSROOMS

John, P. St., MID*POINT Foundation, Bridgewater, CT USA

MID*POINT Foundation has been offering a wide variety of in-school information to both students and teachers about whales and dolphins. The aggressive approach, using inexpensive tools and creative techniques, has resulted in a better and more complete awareness about marine mammals, as well as the marine environment. St. John will demonstrate teaching methods as well as how to use the tools to teach such a program.

That's it for now. I look forward to hearing from you soon. Let me know also if the abstracts will do. And I will also send this off via surface mail to ensure that you receive this.

PROBLEMS WITH THE IMPORTATION OF PINNIPEDS TO EUROPE

Lacave, G., Dolphinarium Brugge, Belgium

As many of you might know, the Brugge dolphinarium has just imported 10 Pinnipeds from the United States: 5 California sea lions and 5 harbor seals.

Why go so far when these can be purchased in Europe too? The main reason is: in Europe, most of the times surplus animals are sold and can be quite expensive.

In the U.S., these animals are really considered as surplus and are given away for free, providing that the new park pays for all transport costs (which can be less than the price of the animals here in Europe!).

It seemed easy and we decided to import them, but we certainly didn't expect all the problems that arose as the project went on.