

SOME EXAMPLES OF CETACEANS RELEASED from Captivity (11 different species).

The longest an animal is known to have survived post-release = 9 years (Springer, an orca) followed by a bottlenose dolphin (6 years).

SPECIES	COMMON NAME	NAME OR CODE	COUNTRY	NUMBER OF DAYS IN CAPTIVITY	NUMBER OF DAYS TRACKED BY SAT TAG	DISTANCE TRAVELLED	EXTRA NOTES	SOURCE
<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>	Bryde's whale	No name	USA	Six weeks Stranded November 1989	Not satellite tagged	Unknown		(Andrews et al. 2001)
<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>	Gray whale	Gigi II	USA	One year	Not satellite tagged	Unknown		(Andrews et al. 2001)
<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>	Gray whale	JJ	USA	Fourteen months Released March 1998	Not satellite tagged	Unknown	Spaghetti tag only used	(Andrews et al. 2001; Stewart 2001)
<i>Globicephala macrorhyncus</i>	short-finned pilot whale	No name	USA	6 months, 28 days Dec 1986 and released 29 June 1987	tracked for 94.5 days,	over at least 3,144 km	2 years old & 3 m long. after release seen with conspecifics	(Mate et al. 2005)
<i>Globiceplala melas</i>	long-finned pilot whale	#25	USA	3 months, 22 days stranded on 28 June 1999 - released 20 October 1999	4 months, 3 days 20 October 1999 through 23 February 2000	3,790 km	juvenile	(Nawojchik et al. 2003)
<i>Globiceplala melas</i>	long-finned pilot whale	(& #26)	USA	3 months, 22 days stranded on 28 June 1999 - released 20 October 1999	4 months, 8 days 20 October 1999 through 28 February 2000	3,790 km	juvenile	(Nawojchik et al. 2003)
<i>Grampus griseus</i>	Risso's dolphin	Clyde	USA	6 months, 25 days stranded 16 July 2005 - released 10 Feb 2006	tracked for 23 days 10 February 2006 and 4 March 2006	travelled more than 3,300 km days -	Also freeze-branded and splash tagged	(Wells et al. 2009)
<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>	Atlantic white-sided dolphin	No name	USA	8 months, 10 days stranded 15 Feb 1991 and released on 25 Oct 1991	tracked for 6 days	316.2 km	- tag came off during storm	
<i>Neophocaena phocaenoides</i>	Finless porpoise		China	2 months, 7 days 30 March 2008-6 June 2008	Not satellite tagged	Unknown		(Yu et al. 2009)
<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Orca	Keiko	Iceland	19 years 1 Nov 1979-1 July 2000	3 years	Iceland to Norway	Remained free but received supplementary feed in Norway	(Simon et al. 2009)
<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Orca	Springer	USA	31 days 13 June 2002- 14 July 2002	9 years Not satellite tagged		Repeatedly resighted with different group than natal group	(Schroeder et al. 2007)

<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	harbour porpoise	508	USA	1 year, 28 days 1 April 1995- 29 April 1996	50 days		Freeze-branded	(Westgate et al. 1998)
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>		'several'	USA	Not stated	"tracked after release"	Not stated	VHF telemetry	(Westgate et al. 1998)
<i>Stenofla frontalis</i>	spotted dolphin	GA678		1 month, 7 days 10 Feb 1995. released 17 March 1995	tracked for 23.7 days	minimum distance of 1,711 km		(Davis et al. 1996)
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottlenose dolphin	Gulliver	USA	3 months, 20 days stranded 30 Jan 1997, released 20 May 1997 -	tracked for 47 days	At least 4,200 km, 89 km/d, on average		(Wells et al. 1999)
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottlenose dolphin	Rudy		2 months, 22 days stranded 23 Dec 1996 and released 17 March 1997 -	tracked for 43 days	At least 2,050 km, 48 km/d, on average		(Wells et al. 1999)
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottlenose dolphin	Echo	USA	9 months, 9 days 1988-10 Oct 1990	3 years		Captured for release. Tag failed, but resighted	(Wells et al. 1998)
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottlenose dolphin	Misha	USA	9 months, 9 days 1988-10 Oct 1990	6 years		Captured for release. Not tagged, but resighted	(Wells et al. 1998)
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottlenose dolphin	Joe & Rosie	USA	4 years June 1987-1991	Months after release			(O'Barry 1988; Rose et al. 2009)
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottlenose dolphin	13	USA	90 days Aug 1978	10 months Nov 1978-March 1982		Captured for release. Freeze branded resighted	(Odell and Asper 1990)
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottlenose dolphin	15	USA	90 days Aug 1978	10 months Nov 1978-Sept 1979		Captured for release. Freeze branded resighted	(Odell and Asper 1990)
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottlenose dolphin	#1 no name	USA	2 years	2 years 1990-1992		Resighted	(Bassos et al. 1991)
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottlenose dolphin	#2 no name	USA	2 years	2 years 1990-1992		Resighted	(Bassos et al. 1991)
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottlenose dolphin	70 individuals	USA	Up to 10 years				(Wells et al. 1998)
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottlenose dolphin	5 individual	Australia	1981-13 Jan 1992	5 days		One returned for further rehabilitation	(Gales and Waples 1993)

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<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottlenose dolphin	Flipper	Brazil	1981-1993	2 years	Not tagged	Observed with other species and humans	(Rollo 1994)
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottlenose dolphin	Ariel & Turbo	Guatemala	June 2001				(Rose et al. 2009)
20 individuals	(species not listed)						between 1992-1997, but not further details given	(Wells et al. 1999)

POINTS OF NOTE:

“Observations of each dolphin have shown them to be fully integrated into the local dolphin societies. They displayed typical behavioral, ranging, and social association patterns. Their body condition has been excellent at each observation. They have not been observed interacting with humans.” (Wells et al. 1998)

“An animal that was unable to feed adequately or was suffering from serious medical problems would likely not have survived to transmit signals for more than six weeks. Similarly, a compromised dolphin would likely not have been able to maintain the travel rates demonstrated by Gulliver, especially swimming against currents.” (Wells et al. 1999)

“Harbor porpoises do not carry long-term energy stores, so it is unlikely that the porpoise would have remained in this vicinity for four weeks if it had been unable to forage successfully” (Westgate et al. 1998)

“We conclude that rehabilitation and reintroduction can be successful for stranded harbor porpoises, even if they are maintained in husbandry facilities for moderate periods (13 months).” (Westgate et al. 1998)

“According to the National Marine Fisheries Service, since 1964 more than 70 dolphins in the U.S. have been returned to the wild for a variety of reasons after periods in captivity ranging from days to 10 yr.” (Wells et al. 1998)

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