

## **Analysis of Morgan's behavior at Dolfinarium Harderwijk from video clips**

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**film10.MPG, film11.MPG & film12.MPG**: Morgan looks pretty bored and tries to keep herself busy with something in the bottom of the pool. It looks like she is either playing with some algae there, or destroying the concrete, since all I can see is a kind of black round spot where she often dives and stays. I also noticed she tends to go back to that window panel (3<sup>rd</sup> panel from left), where I've seen her previously playing in video and photographs. Although, I can clearly see that whatever is in the bottom of this pool in that black spot, now keeps her attention much more.

Also, I noticed some weird skin pattern on the top of her tail fluke (may be present on the bottom too ? But hard to see on the white color though), which may be related to the fact the pool is not deep enough, she often rubs her tail against the bottom, while standing vertically outside of the water (while looking at a trainer for instance).

I also like the way she randomly takes off and swims away fast, with her tongue out and such (without apparent trace of any trainer), which is really a nice sign of a young and healthy orca who is good in her mind versus those who just float in one spot all day. But that's also another sign she is definitely trying to catch some attention while being bored though. I also noticed that she tends to vocalize a lot too, especially when she comes back to that black spot in the bottom.

I also noticed she rubs herself sometimes against the bottom and edges of the pool, which should be normal as long as she doesn't do that excessively (which could mean some skin problems if she does).

**film1.MPG & film9.MPG**: Here I can see her vocalizing quite a lot, while trying to often check toward the people and outside the water (on the stage). Probably she knows something is going to happen (training session, food...etc), because she looks to me like she is anticipating something. Finally, when nothing happen by the end of the video, she returns to her black spot in the bottom.

**film2.MPG**: This is some other behavior that enforces my thought about her being really bored; trying to entertain herself the best she could. If this orca is left alone somewhere, she should have at least someone interacting with her all the time during the day in my opinion. Leaving her alone that way is

good if they wanted to take care of her and then release her right away, but due to the fact they already said they don't want to release her, including the fact she is feeling way better now too, they should have left someone with her to keep her less bored, avoiding at the same time all the "destroying behavior" she may have, like the damage to her teeth trying to bite on the window frame, or rubbing against that black spot in the bottom of her pool (which is probably the cause of her damaged rostrum too now).

**film4Training2.MPG & film5Training3.MPG**: First of all, I noticed here that the trainer asked something to Morgan, which she refused or didn't do correctly. In any case Morgan left and returned with an "annoyed" reaction. Such 'annoyed' behavior is often seen when the animal either ignores the trainer, ignores a cue from the trainer, or may be seen when the animal has a displacement behavior such as chewing a window frame.

Frankly, I would have been frustrated also if this trainer had asked me to do something, as she doesn't seem to know really what she wants. The trainer appears really confused with her signals, as well as excessively using the whistle to bridge Morgan. This has resulted in the impact of the whistle being diminished. It is likely that these issues arise because the trainer has little experience and/or has been poorly trained herself. At least the trainer seems to be full of energy, which orca love though.

The bubbles game is nice and interesting for Morgan it seems. That's the kind of game I expect to see much often around Morgan though (see my comment above on "film2.mpg", with regards to keeping her in captivity in contrast to release). I haven't seen the trainer reinforcing Morgan with any fish on this session though, but just using bubbles as secondary reinforcement. It appears also that she tried to use the bubbles as a trigger to make Morgan do some bubbles as well under water. Interesting approach, but not really what you should do if you want good results though.

I also noticed toward the end, that this trainer uses physical contact as secondary reinforcement (petting/stroking). Again, no fish seem to be involved in this session, as far as I can tell. It is possible for an animal to become very frustrated when no fish is given multiple times.

**film6Training4.MPG & film7Training5.MPG**: This video seems to be the same training session as the one I described above, although this time the trainer is using ice cubes as reinforcement, which Morgan seems to not really care for, from what I can clearly see. Secondary reinforcement is good to use sometimes, but if this trainer is looking for results, without having a frustrated (pissed off/aggressive orca), she should alternate with primary reinforcement, or not using a whistle at all and do a "games" session, not training.

**film8Training6.MPG**: That's what I was actually talking about! As you can see right in the beginning of this video, Morgan seems to show some sign of aggression already ( Morgan opens quickly her mouth a little, shaking her head quickly, and then bites some of the concrete around the window as the trainer keep asking), being probably frustrated from what this trainer is asking her (best example of aversive reinforcement). The trainer seems to realize the aggression a bit, and tries to come back to something Morgan likes: the bubbles. All will have been good if this trainer stopped there, but instead she seems to not get it, and keep asking for the behavior Morgan refuses to do. At the end, this trainer have no other choice than leaving the session on a "negative note" with Morgan, which probably will make the orca much more frustrated and/or aggressive (and people wonder about why trainers are attacked by orca in park ! ). At the end, I noticed that this trainer tries again to calm Morgan down by using some bubbles again, but you can clearly see that Morgan is not so much into it though. So, the trainer has no other choice at this point other than stopping the session completely, and start answering questions to the people probably, from what I can hear in the background. Morgan was left frustrated and just standing there in front of the window for a while, looking at her trainer and wondering about what's going on, since I haven't seen any "end session" sign used. So at this point, the orca doesn't even know that the session is over. Sorry, but it often frustrates me as well to see such unprofessional training done with orca.

**film1.MPG & film2.MPG**: Morgan seems to vocalize a lot in those videos, and appears quite impatient (frustrated) about something. Maybe she sees a trainer around or it's feeding time, and she anticipates that ?. I also noticed that they have a LOT of people all the time in front of those windows too. I do hope that's not always the case and that there's some times where people are not allowed there, because they are making a really loud background noise, that must be probably heard quite well under the water by Morgan all the time.

**film6Training4.MPG**: Here is the same trainer as on the other video (the one who uses the whistle too much). Amongst other behavior I've seen her trying to train previously, and commented on, I see she tries to reinforce Morgan with ice-cubes. From what I saw, Morgan seems to totally not care about this kind of reinforcement though.