

Marine Mammal Care Compared to Human Care Assignment

Read the passage below.

Aquarium animals need special care to grow and enjoy healthy living just like us. Understanding healthy eating, safe practices, and proper uses of medicines are all important to the well-being of our marine mammal friends. We can apply this learning and make positive, healthy decisions about our well-being.

Marine mammals are fed the same fish they would find in the ocean. Herring, capelin and squid are part of the regular, daily **diet**. Marine mammals, because of their size, need large amounts of this food. They are fed as much as they want. Each animal **consumes** between 5 and 90 kilograms of fish each day. Each mammal also gets vitamins every morning. Specially formulated marine mammal vitamins help ensure the good health of aquarium animals. Monitoring the health of animals in aquariums is extremely important.

Animal safety is key to marine mammal well-being. We must understand the risks to animal safety and exercise safety procedures to take away these risks. Aquarium residents receive care from veterinary staff. Breathing and blood samples are taken on a regular basis. Each animal's habitat must also be kept clean. Trainers keep a close eye on the water quality since this is where the animals live. Daily water testing makes sure that quality and temperature keep the animal's environment a comfortable one. Trainers also enter each habitat regularly to clean it and to train the animals. This involves SCUBA diving.

Marine mammals are trained special **husbandry** behaviours that are not always seen by the public. These behaviours allow the animals to prepare for blood work and examination by trainers or a veterinarian. They learn how to present body parts or to open their mouths for inspection. These learned skills are among the most important behaviours because they help to monitor and maintain the health of an animal. Other training time includes play sessions. Marine mammals enjoy playing with toys and people. Play time is not only rewarding for the trainers and animals but is essential to their well-being.

Medical attention is generally limited to veterinarian visits, regular checkups, daily vitamins, and drug-free healthy diet. Healthy living is based on a healthy life style consisting of proper diet, daily exercise, and a carefully supported **habitat**.

Word bank: Diet, Husbandry, Consumes, Habitat

Marine Mammal care is much like the care of people. We all need things to grow, be safe and enjoy a healthy life.

Write a description about how marine mammal care is like the care of humans.

Use your own ideas and ideas from the passage in your answer.

Think:

What is healthy diet?

What are risks to safety and safe practices?

What makes us healthy?

What makes us happy?

Plan:

Use this box to organize your ideas.

My ideas about the care of marine mammals and people
--

Write:

Create a draft of your description on the blank paper provided by your teacher.

Use your plan as a guide.

Remember to leave space between all lines of text, for editing.

Use pencil.

Edit and Revise:

Share your draft description with a classmate. Read your description.

Ask your classmate the questions below and record suggestions in the spaces provided.

	Yes	No
1. Did I compare animal and people care?	∫	∫
2. Is my message clear?	∫	∫
3. Is there anything you cannot understand?	∫	∫
4. Do you have any other suggestions?	∫	∫

Revision Suggestions:

Edit and Revise:

1. Read your “Revision Suggestions”.
2. Make changes on your draft copy.
3. Proofread your draft again. Check carefully for each of the following:
 - Do my words make sense?
 - Did I need to use punctuation and did I use the right punctuation?
 - . period
 - ? question mark
 - ! exclamation mark
 - “” quotation marks
 - Did I use capitals correctly? (names, sentence beginnings)
 - Did I spell the words correctly?
 - Do my printed ideas have missing words or extra words?
 - Can I make my description better by changing any words or ideas?
 - Is my description neat?

A Final Copy:

You are now ready to begin the final copy of your description. Final copy must be typed and submitted to your teacher.