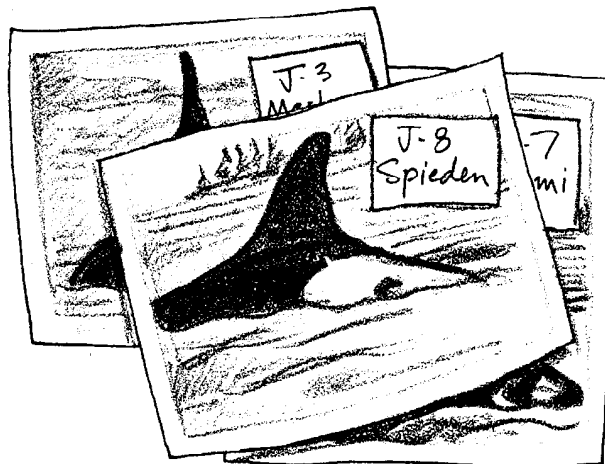


THE ORCA ADOPTION PROGRAM

96 resident orcas ply the waters of Puget Sound and southern British Columbia. The largest members of the dolphin species, orcas live in small family units known as pods and take good care of their young. They feed, travel and frolic together. Orcas appear to have a highly developed intelligence and a remarkable ability to communicate through vocalizations. Researchers have observed that orcas display a complex social organization which may be unique to their species. Investigators at The Whale Museum, a center for marine research and environmental education in Friday Harbor, Washington have been studying these wild animals in their natural habitat for 16 years.



Orcas are highly efficient ocean predators, which accounts for their common name "killer whales". Distinct communities of orcas, which are found worldwide, have different prey preferences. For instance, the Argentine orcas prey on marine mammals and seabirds while Norwegian orcas feed primarily on herring. The resident orcas in the Pacific Northwest feed on salmon and other abundant fish, not on marine mammals.

Captures and unrestricted netting of orcas for public display in aquaria and oceanaria threatened the Puget Sound orcas between 1965 and 1976. Sixty orcas were removed or died in capture operations. Due to public outcry, captures were stopped. The orcas have since become an important symbol of the Puget Sound environment to residents and visitors to the area, and their well-being is an issue of widespread concern.

But danger for the orcas is not entirely a thing of the past. The recovering population is still small and vulnerable to threats from environmental toxins and oil spills, increasing boat traffic and the consequent noise pollution from vessels in waters the orcas traverse.

Through educational programming, Museum exhibits, sponsorship of workshops and symposia and ongoing studies of whales, porpoises and other marine species, the Museum is making a positive contribution to science, public education and the protection of the marine environment. The proceeds of the Orca Adoption Program help support these ongoing efforts.

Orcas are distinctive beings. They have unique and stunning physical markings. Each orca can be identified by the shape and size of its dorsal fin as well as the black and white coloration beneath and behind the fin, called the saddle patch. Each animal has been assigned an official designation. A letter, J, K or L, indicates the pod to which the orca belongs. A number follows the letter, creating a shorthand identification for scientists and researchers. In addition, each orca has a given name which attempts to reflect a bit of its heritage, personality or discovery.

Adopt an orca with full Whale Museum benefits! The Orca Adoption Program is offered to encourage public involvement in protecting the orcas. Your symbolic adoption is a way to support ongoing education, and field studies on behalf of the whales.

For a tax-deductible contribution of \$35 you receive:

Orca Adoption Package -

- A special parchment Adoption Certificate with the orca's name and identification photo affixed to it, inscribed with your name;
- The whale's biography; and
- One issue of the Orca Update, the annual newsletter bringing you new information from field studies of social organization and related topics.

Plus....

Membership in The Whale Museum -

- Unlimited free Museum admission;
- A 10% discount on Museum Gift Shop and Catalog purchases;
- A subscription to the Museum's newsletter, Spirit of the Sound.

Plus....

- Project Interspeak's full-color, 104 page paperback book with photos, illustrations, poetry, stories and essays on cetaceans.

CLASSROOM ADOPTION PACKAGE -

Adopt a whale with your class! For a total of only \$55, each student receives his or her own adoption certificate, the instructor receives a membership, including Spirit of the Sound and the Project Interspeak book. Please send us a printed class list with students' names as they should appear on the certificate.

Or, adopt an orca without Museum benefits or book for only \$25. You receive the regular orca adoption package.

And, orca adoptions make great gifts!




An alternative to consumerism, it's a thoughtful, simple and educational gift that is fun for people of all ages. We'll help make your gift especially meaningful by enclosing a gift card which explains your donation.

Adoption Application

Mail to: The Whale Museum
P.O. BOX 945
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

YES! I'm ready to adopt!

Please find my contribution of \$ _____ enclosed.

-  \$55 Classroom Adoption
-  \$35 (U.S.) each Orca Adoption Package with Museum benefits & book
-  \$25 (U.S.) each Orca Adoption Package only

Method of payment:

Check enclosed (Payable to The Whale Museum) - U.S. Funds only

 Visa  Mastercharge # _____ exp. _____

Please include an additional \$6.00 for Adoptions to be mailed outside the U.S.; \$8.00 for Adoptions with Museum Benefits.

My Name _____ Phone number (_____) _____
PLEASE PRINT

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name as it will appear on certificate _____
PLEASE PRINT

(Please use an additional sheet of paper for additional adoptions.)

IF THIS ADOPTION IS A GIFT, PLEASE COMPLETE SECTION BELOW:

Recipient's name as it will appear
on the adoption certificate _____
PLEASE PRINT

Address* _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

A gift from: _____ Date of occasion _____
(NAME AS IT SHOULD APPEAR ON GIFT CARD)

Send gift adoption package:  to me  to recipient

Send renewal notice:  to me  to recipient

* If you wish adoption package sent to you rather than the recipient, still include the recipient's address for the Orca Update mailing.