

Effect of sea turtle rehabilitation centres in Queensland, Australia, on people's perceptions of conservation

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Supplement. Sea turtle rehabilitation survey



Purpose of This Study:

Sea turtle rehabilitation has been seen as an important part of sea turtle conservation. This study is being conducted by the School of Earth and Environmental Science at James Cook University in Townsville. We are interested in your experience and your opinions on threats sea turtles face and how the State should deal with these. We stress that we are interested in and value your opinions. This is not a 'test' and there are no wrong answers. We hope that the results of this survey will improve our understanding of the benefits of rehabilitation for sea turtle conservation.

In completing the survey, please keep in mind the following:

- The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete
- Your participation is voluntary
- You may skip any questions you don't want to answer and you may stop answering the survey at any time
- The information that you provide will be anonymous

Instructions:

The survey form is in two parts. Part I can be completed before visiting the sea turtle rehabilitation centers. Part II should be completed after visiting the sea turtle rehabilitation centre. Completed survey forms can be handed to facility.

For further information, please contact Alexandra Feck (04) 5051-8766. This survey is completely confidential and voluntary. Your answers will be used strictly for statistical purposes only.

Part I: Before Visit

Section A: Visitor Information

1. _____ Date of Visit

2. Which center did you visit? (*Check only ONE*)
 - a) _____ Cairns Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Centre
 - b) _____ Reef HQ, Townsville
 - c) _____ Australia Zoo
 - d) _____ Underwater World
 - e) _____ Sea World
 - f) _____ Australian Sea Bird Rescue
 - g) _____ Taronga Zoo

3. Why did you come to this facility? (Please rank in order of importance, 1=primary reason for visiting, 2=second reason for visiting, etc...)
 - a) _____ Visit the aquarium or zoo
 - b) _____ Visit the wildlife hospital/rehabilitation centre
 - c) _____ To see turtles specifically
 - d) _____ To see other animals

4. Is this your first visit to this centre?
_____ Yes _____ No

5. Are you a member (Only check if applicable (Reef HQ))
_____ Yes _____ No

6. Have you visited a sea turtle rehabilitation centre previously?
_____ Yes _____ No

7. If yes, which one?
 - a) _____ Cairns Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Centre
 - b) _____ Reef HQ, Townsville
 - c) _____ Australia Zoo
 - d) _____ Underwater World
 - e) _____ Sea World
 - f) _____ Australian Sea Bird Rescue
 - g) _____ Taronga Zoo
 - h) _____ Other Facility

Section B: Sea Turtle Conservation

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

- | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------|---------|-------|----------------|
| 8. Sea turtles are endangered. | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. Sea turtles are unique. | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10. Sea turtles can generate income. | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 11. Sea turtles are charismatic (popular species used to achieve broader conservation goals). | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12. Sea turtles have no recreational value. | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 13. Rehabilitation helps sea turtle populations increase. | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 14. Saving sea turtles helps protect the ocean. | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 15. We should refrain from rehabilitation if the animal will not survive (ex: internal tumors, spinal injury...) | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 16. We should refrain from rehabilitation if it will be long term (Ex: require many years and/or a lot of money to rehabilitate individual) | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 17. We should never refrain from rehabilitation. | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 18. We should not rehabilitate sea turtles. | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 19. Rehabilitation alone will help sea turtle populations recover. | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 20. Sea turtle rehabilitation is valuable for sea turtle conservation. | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 21. Sea turtle rehabilitation is beneficial for raising public awareness about threats and their management. | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 22. Sea turtle conservation is very important. | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 23. I am aware of threats to sea turtles. | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

24. For sea turtles in Australia, please rank the THREE most serious threats jeopardizing their survival? (Rank 1= most serious, 2= second-most serious, 3= third-most serious)

Threat to Sea Turtle Survival	Australia
a) Beach nourishment/beach activities/coastal development/beach armoring [e.g. sea walls, sand bags, groins, jetties, etc.]	
b) Artificial lighting from buildings, streetlights and beach front properties	
c) Climate change/global warming	
d) Human use of sea turtles for meat, eggs, and other products	
e) Competition from invasive, non-native plant and animal species	
f) Commercial and recreational boat strikes	
g) Dogs not on leash	
h) Beach driving	
i) Disease [Fibropapillomatosis tumors]	
j) Natural predation [e.g. ghost crabs, foxes, fishes, sharks]	
k) Ingestion of marine debris [e.g. plastic bags, plastics, lost fishing gear]/water pollution	
l) Bycatch in fisheries	
m) Loss of in-water-habitat/foraging grounds	
n) Loss of nesting habitat	

Section C: Cost of Sea Turtle Conservation

25. Have you previously donated money to sea turtle conservation?
 _____ Yes _____ No

26. How much would you be willing to contribute in an annual donation to sea turtle conservation each year?
 (Check only **ONE**)

<\$50 \$50-99 \$100-149 \$150-199 >\$200

27. How much more (in addition to regular admission price) would you be willing to pay for a single entrance fee into the facility? (Check only **ONE**)

\$0 \$1-3 \$4-6 \$7-9 >\$10

28. How much more/would you be willing to pay for the hospital/rehabilitation tour? (Check only **ONE**)

\$0 \$1-3 \$4-6 \$7-9 >\$10

29. Where would you suggest money from additional payments go? (Check only **ONE**)

- a. _____ Rehabilitation
- b. _____ Education/public awareness
- c. _____ Broader conservation initiatives
- d. _____ Facility in general
- e. _____ For sea turtles management in Queensland

Part II: After Visit

Section E: Rehabilitation Centre Experience

Note: Please fill in this survey after visiting the rehabilitation centre.

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

36. More action is needed to minimize threats to sea turtles.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

37. I found the visit informative.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

38. I am better informed of threats to sea turtles following the visit.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

39. I learned about threats to sea turtles because of this visit.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

40. Which threats are you more informed about following your visit? (Check ALL that apply)

- a. _____ Did not learn about threats
- b. _____ Human consumption of sea turtles
- c. _____ Boat Strikes
- d. _____ Disease (Ex: Fibropapillomatosis tumors)
- e. _____ Ingestion of marine debris
- f. _____ Bycatch in fisheries
- g. _____ Coastal development
- h. _____ Loss of nesting and/or foraging habitats/starvation
- i. _____ Climate change/global warming

41. What do you consider is the main threat to sea turtles? (Check only **ONE**)

- a. _____ Human consumption of sea turtles
- b. _____ Boat Strikes
- c. _____ Disease (Ex: Fibropapillomatosis tumors)
- d. _____ Ingestion of marine debris
- e. _____ Bycatch in fisheries
- f. _____ Coastal development
- g. _____ Loss of nesting and/or foraging habitats
- h. _____ Climate change/global warming
- i. _____ Other

42. As a result of your visit, are you more likely to: (Check ALL that apply)

- a. _____ Dispose of plastics carefully
- b. _____ Pick up trash off the beach
- c. _____ Greater care in switching off lights near beaches
- d. _____ Avoid using beaches where sea turtles nest
- e. _____ Operate motor vessels slower in areas with sea turtles
- f. _____ More likely to report the sighting of sick and injured sea turtles

Section F: Willingness to Pay for Sea Turtle Conservation

43. Would you visit this facility again?

_____ Yes _____ No

44. Because of your visit, would you be willing to contribute money to sea turtle conservation?

_____ Yes _____ No

45. How much would you be willing to contribute in an annual donation to help manage what you consider the main threat to sea turtles each year? (*Check only ONE*)

<\$50 \$50-99 \$100-149 \$150-199 >\$200

46. How much more (in addition to the regular admission price) would you be willing to pay for a single entrance fee into the facility? (*Check only ONE*)

\$0 \$1-3 \$4-6 \$7-9 >\$10

47. How much more/would you be willing to pay for the hospital/rehabilitation tour? (*Check only ONE*)

\$0 \$1-3 \$4-6 \$7-9 >\$10

48. Where would you suggest money from additional payments go? (*Check only ONE*)

- a. _____ Rehabilitation
- b. _____ Education/public awareness
- c. _____ Broader conservation initiatives
- d. _____ Facility in general
- e. _____ For sea turtles management in Queensland