



Wet 'n Wild

Sea World

Village Walk

uShaka Kids World

Home

Rates & Times

Promotions & Events

Restaurants

Passes

Contact

DURBAN SOUTH AFRICA

unlimited fun

- > About Us
- > Dangerous Creatures
- > Animal Encounters
- > uShaka Beach
- > Functions
- > Kids Corner
- > Our Partners
- > The Good We Do
 - > Conservation Station
 - > Movers and Shakers
- > Merchandising

Conservation Station

Open Wide



Dr Gerhard Steenkamp, a veterinary dental specialist, visited the uShaka Sea World dolphins and seals on Friday 17th August 2012.

Dr Steenkamp inspected the dolphins teeth for teeth fractures and signs of infection. He did this by visual inspection and by the use of a hand held x-ray machine – much like the ones we are familiar with when we sit in a dentist's chair. Dolphin's teeth are undifferentiated and unlike us there are no specialized teeth for biting, cutting or grinding. The dolphin's permanent, non-replaceable teeth are all the same shape and function in the same manner appearing at about 3 months of age and are fully erupted at 5 months. The dolphins were all very well behaved as they offered Dr Steenkamp big, wide, cheesy grins.

Moving onto the Seals Dr Steenkamp managed a close look at all our seal's teeth from the youngest, Spongi, who is 4 years old to Gimli who is the ripe old age of 25 years. Their health will be monitored by a series of digital photographs. Seals are known for the build-up of calculus or tartar on their teeth and although their teeth are regularly cleaned by their caregivers sometimes the build-up needs more than a toothbrush to remove.

Dr Steenkamp will make regular visits to Ushaka Sea World as he has joined our active health monitoring programme. The day was a great success as not only is it important to keep our marine mammals healthy, I do believe Dr Steenkamp had a great deal of fun with us.



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uShaka Poll

Which Pass is your favourite?

Platinum Pass	- 51.5%
Fun Pass	- 12.9%
Play Pass	- 3.9%
What are these Passes?	- 31.7%

Total votes: 334

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