

ANIMAL FACTS & FIGURES

Get To Know A Beautiful Beast

(NAPSA)—Keiko, the world's most famous killer whale and star of *Free Willy*, the beloved feature film that celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, has been making a splash lately in the news. Keiko recently returned to his home waters in the North Atlantic, off the coast of Iceland, and then swam to the waters of Norway. Since his homecoming, Keiko has enjoyed calm, clean water and a deep bay that protects him from severe weather and allows him to interact with other whales. As whale expert and Director of the *Free Willy*/Keiko Foundation, Dave Phillips said, "Keiko is learning to be a wild whale again."

The push to bring Keiko home was inspired by the messages of freedom in *Free Willy*. The family favorite teaches valuable life lessons such as the beauty of friendship and, as in the case of Keiko, the importance of helping others—all while educating kids about whales.

Have a whale of a good time by learning these fun facts about killer whales:

- It may seem fishy, but the killer whale is actually a mammal. Killer whales breathe air, are warm-blooded and their babies are born tail-first.

- The killer whale is the largest member of the dolphin family. Whales and dolphins are from the order "Cetacea," a term that means they never leave the water.

- The killer whale is scientifically classified as *Orcinus Orca*, commonly referred to as "Orcas."

- Killer whales are social animals that live in family groups called pods.



Keiko, star of *Free Willy*, made a big splash for killer whales with his newfound freedom.

Each pod has its own distinctive dialect through which members of the same pod can recognize each other.

- Orcas can be found in all oceans of the world, but they prefer coastal waters and cooler regions.

- Orcas are toothed whales and use their sharp teeth to catch prey.

- Its common name, the killer whale, was derived from Orcas being one of the top predators in the sea.

- Killer whales eat all types of sea creatures. Sometimes, they even eat whales bigger than themselves!

- Orcas have no natural predators and can live for about 50-80 years.

To learn more about killer whales, check out Keiko in the starring roles that led to his freedom in *Free Willy*, *Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home* and *Free Willy 3: The Rescue*. Capture more about the *Free Willy 10th Anniversary Special Edition* by visiting www.whvdirect.com.