

# Beneath the Surface

By: Baochau N.

Alice my trainer forcefully throws a fish at my face, "Take it, ya filthy animal!" she hollers as she walks away. I'd throw it back at her, but the last time a seal tried that they disappeared overnight. I'd like to disobey her, but last time I tried, I ended up with a bruised eye. I was taken away from my family when I was five to an alleged animal rescue. I hope that someday I would be able to meet them. People think that these animal rescues are saving wildlife, but they don't see what actually goes on behind the scenes. These human beings are not as nice as they seem, they make us starve when people aren't around. They're using us to make money, and they force us to do tricks for entertainment. If we dared to disobey our trainer sleep is no longer an option. Animals are being abused, and I plan to stop it. 'Wally! Who's my good boy?' Charlie screams as he enters the habitat. Charlie is Alice's son, he's the only person I trust. I believe that he would be able to help prevent animals from being abused. People sometimes don't realize that animals have feelings too, and that they should be treated fairly. I have hope that someday all animals would be safe and happy. As a little boy walks by he screams, "Ooh! Mommy look! That seal is so cute! Do tricks do tricks! Mom why isn't he doing any tricks? I command you to do tricks!" Let's go," mumbled the mother as she takes her child by the hand. A can soars through the sky, clunk! "Ha ha!" The child exclaims as he skips away. I'm done living in a world where I'm unappreciated. I plan to escape someday, and today is the day. Here's the plan, First, I go grab Waldo my roommate. Next, we wait until Charlie unlocks the exit door. Then, we escape. After that, we go find help, and finally, we set all the wonderful animals free. As we get ready to run, I holler, 'Waldo get ready. Here he comes, ok now! RUN!' 'Wally? Waldo? Where are you going? Go back in your habitat you two,' Charlie blurts out. 'Waldo, let's try again tomorrow,' I say. "If we do it too often they'll get suspicious," says Waldo. "But we can't just stay here, in a place where no one respects us. We have to take a stand against animal abuse. C'mon let's think of a new plan" "Ok, how bout this. First, I'll go get you. Next, we'll go grab the rope from the bucket. Then, we'll throw the rope over the wall, and escape. Finally, we'll find help to set all the animals free." "Great idea Waldo let's do that, but first we need a good night sleep.

See you tomorrow!" "When I woke up this morning I felt a throbbing pain on my face Owl" "You deserve a smack in the face once and a while you filthy creature, and you're not going anywhere," Alice yells. As I start to chew through the rope, I'm greeted by Waldo. "C'mon Waldo help me chew through this rope," I say. "Ok," Waldo responds!"Great job Waldo let's go! C'mon go get the rope and throw it over the wall. Ok, great now climb it. Hurry" "Ok ok yes! We made it out, let's go that way. As we hurry down the road a voice calls out, 'Where do you think you're going?'" As we slowly turn our heads we realize it's Charlie! As Charlie gets **closer to us he mumbles, "I'm sorry guys, but I have to this." Charlie grabs us by the flippers and** throws us into the bag, then he drags us away. After what seemed like an hour upside down in this bag he throws us into a dark pit. What we find at the bottom of this pit is disturbing. We see more than many hungry, unloved, disrespected creatures. "What are you doing down here?" I ask. One of the creature responds and says, 'We were thrown down here by Charlie, Charlie once was a nice and sweet boy until one day when we tried to escape, he threw us down here, in a dark and lonely well.' "How do we get out?" Waldo asks. 'We don't, we've been here for almost a month now feeding on dead rats.' "There must be a way out, there's always a way out," I reply. "Good luck finding one buddy, I've already given up hope," one replies. After a month with no food or water, Waldo and I gave up hope. "This is the end of the road pal," Waldo says. "Let's spend our last days starrng at the stars from this well buddy." "Goodnight."

Note to all readers: Animals out there are being abused, and it's our fault. We have to team up together to take a stand against animal abuse. My hope is that one day the world would be a better place and wildlife is being protected. "If every single person in this room made it a rule that wherever you are, whenever you can, you will try to act a little kinder than is necessary-the world really would be a better place."- **R.J.** Palacio