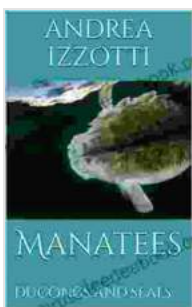


Manatees, Dugongs, and Seals: Born to Be Free

Manatees, dugongs, and seals are all marine mammals that share a common ancestor. These gentle creatures are well-adapted to their aquatic environment and play an important role in the marine ecosystem. However, all three species are facing threats from human activities, such as habitat loss, pollution, and climate change.

In this article, we will explore the unique characteristics of manatees, dugongs, and seals, and discuss the challenges they face in the wild. We will also provide information on how you can help protect these amazing creatures.

Manatees



Manatees: dugongs and seals (Born to be free)

by Andrea Izzotti

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 22619 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 48 pages
Lending : Enabled



Manatees are large, slow-moving marine mammals that are found in warm waters around the world. They are herbivores and feed on a variety of plants, including seagrass, algae, and mangrove leaves. Manatees are known for their gentle nature and are often called "sea cows."

Manatees are born with a thick layer of blubber that helps them to stay warm in the water. They also have large lungs that allow them to stay submerged for long periods of time. Manatees are social animals and live in groups of up to 100 individuals.

Dugongs

Dugongs are closely related to manatees and are found in warm waters in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. They are also herbivores and feed on seagrass. Dugongs are smaller than manatees and have a more streamlined body shape.

Dugongs are shy and solitary animals that are rarely seen by humans. They are also very sensitive to changes in their environment and are easily disturbed by noise and pollution.

Seals

Seals are marine mammals that are found in all oceans of the world. They are carnivores and feed on a variety of fish, squid, and crustaceans. Seals are well-adapted to their aquatic environment and have a thick layer of blubber that helps them to stay warm in the water.

Seals are social animals and live in colonies of up to 100,000 individuals. They are also very intelligent animals and have been known to solve

complex problems.

Threats to Manatees, Dugongs, and Seals

Manatees, dugongs, and seals are all facing threats from human activities. These threats include:

- **Habitat loss:** The destruction of mangrove forests and seagrass beds is a major threat to manatees and dugongs. These habitats provide food and shelter for these animals.
- **Pollution:** Pollution from industrial runoff, sewage, and oil spills can harm manatees, dugongs, and seals. Pollution can cause these animals to become sick or die.
- **Climate change:** Climate change is causing the oceans to become warmer and more acidic. This is a threat to manatees, dugongs, and seals because these animals are adapted to living in specific temperature ranges.

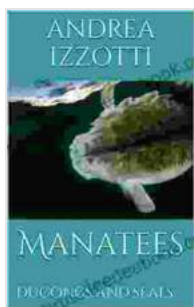
How You Can Help

There are a number of things you can do to help protect manatees, dugongs, and seals. These include:

- **Support organizations that are working to protect these animals.** There are a number of organizations that are working to protect manatees, dugongs, and seals. You can support these organizations by donating money, volunteering your time, or spreading the word about their work.

- **Reduce your carbon footprint.** Climate change is a major threat to manatees, dugongs, and seals. You can reduce your carbon footprint by driving less, using less energy, and eating less meat.
- **Be aware of your surroundings when you are in the water.** If you see a manatee, dugong, or seal, give it plenty of space. Do not harass these animals or try to feed them.

Manatees, dugongs, and seals are all amazing creatures that deserve our protection. These gentle animals play an important role in the marine ecosystem. By taking action to protect these animals, we can help ensure that they will continue to thrive for generations to come.



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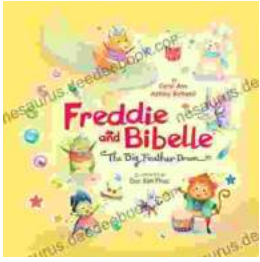
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