## **Newport Aquarium**



Kendyl Rae, touching her new reptile friend. By Angela Ash

The Newport Aquarium is, well... pretty amazing. In a million gallons of water, you can view thousands of creatures up close and personal. You can even touch a few.

When I say that this facility offers a LOT to do, I am seriously down-playing the adventures that await. The new Turtle Corral is nothing short of

spectacular. You can view Bravo, the 650 pound Galapagos Tortoise, and even interact more with the VIP Bravo Experience. And at all times, amongst the 14 different species of turtles, there are three that you can actually touch, as a knowledgeable employee fills your head with fun facts about these fascinating creatures.

The Penguin Palooza will allow you to view the most diverse collection of cold-weather penguins in the entire country... right here in Newport. Make certain to catch one of the shows, where you will be highly entertained with information on these adorable creatures, while an aquarium presenter communicates with animated penguins on a screen. But let me tell you, the real ones are just as animated! I watched in literal wonder as one of these guys in particular interacted with a small group of children, racing from one end of the glass to the other, as they gleefully chase him, squealing with delight.

However, this delight can quickly turn into sheer terror when approaching Surrounded By Sharks. Yes... it fits its description exactly. You are SURROUNDED by sharks. As you walk through underwater tunnels, you will be face to face with Shark Rays, Stingrays, a multitude of different shark species, and Denver, the Loggerhead Sea Turtle. But it never fails. No matter how many times you convince yourself that you are safe on dry land, seeing a giant shark swimming straight for your head can really get the adrenaline pumping! If you'd like even more interaction with these fascinating animals, then stop by Shark Central, where you can actually touch a few. And this is even included in your regular aquarium admission! How cool is that?

As you visit the rest of aquarium, you will see exotic fish, graceful sea horses, and electrifying jelly fish... and that is just to name a few! You can also view animal feedings, or watch special shows where divers actually interact with the animals!

Visit the Newport Aquarium on your next visit to the Northern Kentucky or Cincinnati area, and experience an adventure like no other. You can even rent the facility for special events and occasions!

For additional information, please visit the Newport Aquarium <u>online</u>, or call (859) 261-7444 for additional assistance.