



May 1st, 2023

## **Update on Efforts to Return Lolita, the 57-year-old Orca Residing at the Miami Seaquarium, to Her Home Waters**

[The Miami Seaquarium](#), under the management of [The Dolphin Company](#), brings together with [Friends of Lolita](#), the following report about Lolita, after a month from the press conference, as well as the efforts to relocate the beloved orca to her home waters.

- Immediately prior to a March 30 press conference, Miami Seaquarium executives entered into a binding collaboration agreement with Friends of Lolita, a not-for-profit organization. For the first time, a private company with marine mammals under human care (Miami Seaquarium) and an animal welfare organization (Friends of Lolita), executed a legally binding agreement with one objective – bring together the opportunity to return Lolita to her home waters. This agreement makes possible the first step to provide Lolita the opportunity of a relocation in an ocean-based habitat if her caretakers regard this to be best for her.
- Lolita remains at the Miami Seaquarium, under care and custody of the most expert veterinarians and trainers. Her health has continued to remain stable, encouraging experts to continue efforts to pursue the bold step of giving her a new home.
- The plan for Lolita, which requires authorization from local and federal authorities, is guided by the world's foremost experts in marine mammal care, along with her dedicated trainers. These experts have extensive experience in marine mammal transport and are already introducing training to prepare Lolita for relocation.
- Preliminary consultation with federal authorities is now beginning and plans for Lolita's relocation are being developed by the expert team.
- Miami Seaquarium executives, Friends of Lolita, environmental professionals and experts with decades of experience caring for orcas, are developing plans for a protected enclosure in a natural area that will provide safety, and the best possible chance for a better future for Lolita.
- Returning Lolita to her home waters does not mean releasing her into the open ocean. She is expected to remain under human care, in a protected habitat, for the rest of her life. Lolita will continue to receive enrichment, high-quality nutrition, medical care and love, all according to the approved plans by federal authorities.

Lolita's specialty care team, guiding her daily care as well as those planning for her future, includes highly-skilled, medical, nutrition and behavior experts.

- Dr. Tom Reidarson, DVM DACZM
- Dr. James McBain, DVM retired
- Dr. Stephanie Norman, DVM, Ph-D
- Dr. Roberto Sanchez Okruky, DVM retired
- Dr. Jess Camolli
- Dr. Guillermo Sánchez
- Mike Partica, Trainer
- Andrew Scullion, Trainer

Among others.

The Miami Seaquarium and Friends of Lolita would like to thank Jim Irsay for his commitment and support in this important effort. Further, we all extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Miami Seaquarium veterinarian, trainers and their staff for their care and dedication to Lolita. Their love and experience are so important to Lolita, and plans for her future.