

The Director
CRAM-Q
Centre for Recovery of Marine Animals
Figueira da Foz
Portugal

Wednesday, 06 August 2014

Dear Sirs,

Martinha and Barra

We wanted to make contact with you concerning the above two rescued dolphins – and to introduce ourselves.

Born Free Foundation is an international NGO based in the UK having been established in 1984. During these past three decades our work has grown to encompass many aspects of wildlife protection and conservation. We are now regularly involved in the rescue and rehabilitation of wild animals having established and supported several rescue facilities; we support field based conservation and education and focus our campaigning work on anti-trade and anti-captivity initiatives. We've offices in Kenya, Ethiopia and Sri Lanka and a sister organisation in the US. If you would like to take a look at our website www.bornfree.org.uk, this will offer you a good overview of our activities.

Having heard of your rescue of Martinha and Barra, we wanted, in particular, to introduce you to our rescue and rehabilitation work with cetacean and to see if we can be of any assistance.

Back in the early 1990s, Born Free was one of the leading organisations behind the Into the Blue Project which saw the rescue, rehabilitation and release of the last three remaining captive dolphins in the UK. These dolphins were flown to the Turks and Caicos Islands and following a rehabilitation programme, they were successfully released into the wild. More recently, we managed the rehabilitation and release of two captive dolphins in Turkey. Working with an international team of experts, dolphins Tom and Misha were fully restored to fitness, health and self-sufficiency and released back to the wild and subsequently tracked via satellite for up to six months. They were released in 2012 and, much to our delight, Tom was spotted alive and well a few weeks ago (The marks on his dorsal from the tags still visible)

While appreciating Martinha and Barra come from a different set of circumstances and as I understand you have been looking after them since they were rescued from a stranding and a net entanglement, I wanted to ask if it would be possible to meet with you to discuss future plans for these dolphins. With there having been

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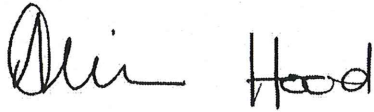
limited experiences in the field of cetacean rehabilitation and release around the world, we would welcome opportunities to see how such programmes can be further refined and developed so that more dolphins can be supported in this way.

Our experience with Tom and Misha - right through from their rescue to their release was supported by British Divers Marine Life Rescue. As you are probably aware they co-ordinate rescue attempts and re-floating around the shores of the UK. Their practical help was relied upon many times.

We look forward to hearing from you and would welcome news on your plans for Martinha and Barra.

We hope that we will be able to meet soon.

Yours faithfully



Alison Hood
Director, Rescue and Care

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