



Exma. Senhora
Dr^a Míriam Martínez Macipe
Fundació per l'Assessorament i Acció en
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ESPANHA

SUA REFERÊNCIA

SUA COMUNICAÇÃO DE

NOSSA REFERÊNCIA

3743/2017/DRNCN/DGEFF

ASSUNTO COMMON-DOLPHIN AT CENTRO DE REABILITAÇÃO DE ANIMAIS MARINHOS DE
QUIAIOS

Dear Dr. Miriam Martínez Macipe,

Referring to your letter dated 6 September 2016 we inform you that “Centro de Reabilitação de Animais Marinhos de Quiaios – CRAM-Q” is a fully licensed rehabilitation center with a strong background and experience in handling marine species.

In 2007 it received a young common dolphin “Martinha” that stranded on the Portuguese coast. The dolphin went through a long process of rehabilitation, and all the national competent authorities (Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests – ICNF and the General Directorate for Food and Veterinary – DGAV) are well aware of this situation.

Martinha is now fully rehabilitated but unfortunately she cannot be released back into the wild due to chronic health problems in the liver and digestive tract that reactivate cyclically (at least twice a year) and cause her medical condition to deteriorate. This situation does not guarantee a complete success in case of release. This non-releasable condition was verified and confirmed by Dr. Manuel García Hartmann that has been assisting CRAM-Q since the beginning of the center activity.

After being declared as non-releasable CRAM-Q experts looked for alternative rehabilitation centers that could receive and take care of Martinha, but unfortunately none of the existing facilities have any common dolphin specimen nor could offer better housing conditions than the ones offered by CRAM-Q.



At the moment Martinha is provided with the best medical treatment and housing facilities at the new rehabilitation center that was built recently and where the same team of biologists and veterinaries will look after her. In a near future she will be moved to another tank within the same facility, which is even larger (1.500.000 liters) with a 5m depth and 800 m² surface, with physical filtration, UV treatment and protein skimmer with ozone. There she will have access to live prey and naturalized housing conditions not available in any rehabilitation center in Europe.

As for its legal status in terms of CITES documentation, Martinha has a valid CITES certificate, stating that the cetacean is legally owned by the Portuguese CITES National Management Authority (ICNF). And, as mentioned before, because no better facility is available to house Martinha, she will remain at CRAM-Q rehabilitation center.

Sincerely yours,

The Head of the Directive Board,

Rogério Rodrigues