Ingrid Visser

From: Fernando Ugarte [feug@natur.gl]
Sent: Friday, 4 November 2011 01:05

To: Ingrid Visser
Cc: Malene J. Simon

Subject: Sea pen in Norway from Morgan

Dear Ingrid,

Thank you for showing me the documents from the Free Morgan projects. The plan of moving Morgan to a sea pen in a fjord in Vesterålen or Lofoten is very much in line with my original recommendation, which was to place Morgan under human care in a sea pen with plenty of activity.

I have worked with Jeff Foster in the past and I do not know any one better qualified than him to advice during the transport and setting up of a sea pen.

Thus, the first steps in the Free Morgan project: transport to Norway and rehabilitation in a sea pen seem like a very good option for Morgan's near future.

In am not in the position to comment as to whether the next step after moving the whale to a sea pen should be release into the wild or a future under human care. Such an evaluation would need more time than what is available for me.

When Keiko swam into Norway, I participated in the discussions between the Norwegian government, the local authorities and Keiko's caretakers. Norway took the welfare of Keiko very seriously and implemented legislation for his protection. With basis on this experience I assume that establishing a sea-pen for a killer whale will only be allowed by the Norwegian authorities if the operation is done in a responsible way.

I understand that it may seem hard to choose between sending Morgan to a tank in Tenerife where she can have social interactions with other killer whales or sending her to a not yet established sea pen in Norway where she could have a large natural environment to live in. I believe that the large natural environment in Norway, coupled and good quality human care including social interactions with humans could be the healthiest option for the animal.

Feel free to include this text in your file case.

All best,

Fernando Ugarte
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