

VETERINARY STATEMENT ON THE KILLER WHALE “MORGAN”

To whom this may concern,

As an independent veterinarian specialized in marine mammals for more than 20 years, I am also consulting at Loro Parque, where the killer whale “Morgan” is presently residing.

She is part, together with the other killer whales at Loro Parque, of the animals whose health I am overseeing, together with Dr. Chris Dold from Sea World and in daily communication with Dr. David Perpiñán, the head veterinarian on site.

Since her arrival at Loro Parque at the end of November 2011, Morgan has shown a very nice adaptation to her new environment and had a very good integration with the other animals of the group. Her training for veterinary care had been started while in rehabilitation at Harderwijk, in the Netherlands, and pursued after her transport to Tenerife so that she could participate in the daily health care programme conducted at the park. Loro Parque has a very high level of husbandry standard and the well being of the animals under their care is of the outmost importance.

As such, she voluntarily participates in body control, blood sampling and ultrasound, which, among others, are tools used by the veterinarians to assess the medical state of the animal. Morgan has had an excellent health record since her arrival with little or no problem (once an episode of lingual candidiasis) and has gained a substantial amount of weight.

She has good interaction with the other animals of the pod and, as all killer whales, she is also having occasional rake marks on her body, which are a result of these social interactions and a way to establish their relative position in the group. They are of no medical consequences. She bonded very well with the youngest male, born 2 years ago at that park. She also seeks trainers' interaction a lot and is a very vocal animal.

In my professional opinion, this animal is faring very well in this facility, not only medically but also socially, which is very important for a killer whale.

Dr. Geraldine Lacave
Marine Mammal Veterinary Services
Brugge, Belgium
23 Oct 2012