

MEDIA RELEASE

Free Morgan Foundation Seeks Annulment of EC Certificate for Orca Morgan

25 August 2016 - Advocate Bondine Kloostra (Van Den Biesen Kloostra Advocaten) representing the Free Morgan Foundation (FMF) presented the State Secretary of Economic Affairs with an application for annulment of the EC certificate of 27 July 2011 granted in respect of Morgan the orca based on new reports concerning her welfare at the Spanish theme park where she is held and attempts by the Spanish park to breed her in violation of the terms of the certificate.

In 2010 orca Morgan was discovered by the patrol vessel “de Krukel” of the Ministry of Agriculture. Dolfinarium Harderwijk was called for advice and sent out a team aboard de Krukel to capture Morgan and take her to Harderwijk for rehabilitation. The Ministry supported this intervention and declared it was according to the permit the Dolfinarium held for rescue and rehabilitation. Following her recovery Morgan was supposed to be returned to sea. However, State Secretary Henk Bleker decided instead to send her to Loro Parque in Tenerife, Spain where she performs tricks for tourists since November 2011.

A new report from the FMF documents the welfare of Morgan, the deterioration of her teeth and the conditions in which she is kept. This information has compelled the FMF to go to the Dutch Government to seek annulment or modification of Morgan’s certificate as the conditions justifying the transfer of Morgan to Loro Parque are not as initially represented.

Advocate Kloostra states: Morgan’s accelerated teeth wear is an important indication that welfare standards are not met. Disregard for the terms of her certificate, which does not authorize breeding, is also reason to act. The request is presented to the State Secretary of Economic Affairs because the Dutch Government is the issuing authority and has authorised Morgan’s stay in Loro Parque for research – not doing shows for tourists or breeding.

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