

Tuesday 18 September 2018

Mr Hirabayashi
Owner
Inubosaki Marine Park Aquarium
9575-1 Inubosaki
Choshi
Chiba Prefecture 288-0012
Japan

Mr Morita Kensaku
Governor of Chiba Prefecture
1-1 Ichiba-cho
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Chiba City
Chiba Prefecture 260-8667
Japan

Mr Koshikawa Shinichi
Mayor of Choshi City
1-1 Wakamiya
Choshi City
Chiba Prefecture 288-8601
Japan

Dear Sirs

We are contacting you to express our deep concern over the welfare of the bottlenose dolphin named Honey, currently held at the above facility, which closed to the public in January this year. Originally captured from the wild after her pod were killed during the drive hunts in Taiji, Honey was transferred to Inubosaki Marine Park in February 2005 where, in June that year, she gave birth to a calf, who did not survive.

Our primary goal in approaching you is to express concern for the conditions in which this dolphin is currently living, which we believe endanger both her current welfare and future survival. Given that four other dolphins who were housed with her have died, we respectfully request your immediate attention to this matter.

Although Honey, and other animals remaining at the park, are currently being fed by former employees, without support or funding they are unable to adequately provide for or ensure their welfare.

It is of paramount importance that those responsible for Honey arrange for her to be moved to a more suitable facility that better meets her welfare requirements. A seaside sanctuary would be the ideal for this dolphin; however, as none are yet available, we ask that immediate steps be taken to move her temporarily to a captive facility that can provide the highest levels of care possible, and strongly urge that she be retired to a seaside sanctuary at the earliest opportunity.

We would welcome the opportunity to contribute to any ongoing dialogue on this issue. Thank you for considering our comments and we look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



Margaux Dodds

Director

margaux@marineconnection.org

Copy also sent to: Yutaka Fukuda, Chair, Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums (JAZA)

Also on behalf of the following:

- Anima International (Denmark)
- Animals Asia (China)
- Animal Rights Hawai'i (USA)
- Animal Welfare Institute (USA)
- Antigua & Barbuda Independent Tourism Authority/ABITPC (Antigua)
- ARAM Project (Japan)
- Australians for Animals Inc (Australia)
- British Divers Marine Life Rescue/BDMLR (UK)
- Blue Planet Society (UK)
- Blue Voice (France)
- Born Free Foundation (UK)
- Brigitte Bardot Foundation (France)
- California Gray Whale Coalition (Australia)
- Captive Dolphin Awareness Foundation (USA)
- Conservación de Mamíferos Marinos de Mexico/COMARINO (Mexico)
- Djurrattsalliansen (Sweden)
- Earthcare (Bahamas)
- Earth Island Institute Marine Mammal Project (USA)
- FAADA (Spain)
- Finns for the Whales (Finland)
- Freedom for Animals (UK)
- Free Morgan Foundation (Netherlands)
- Grupo de los Cien (Mexico)
- Humane Society of Canada (Canada)
- International Animal Rescue (UK)
- Irish Seal Sanctuary (Ireland)
- Jane Goodall PhD DBE; Founder the Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace (UK)
- Keiko Conservation (USA)
- Marine Mammal Support Organisation (UK)
- New York 4 Whales (USA)
- No Whales in Captivity (Canada)
- OceanCare (Switzerland)
- One Voice (France)
- Orca Network (USA)
- Orca Research Trust (New Zealand)
- PeTA (USA)
- PeTA (Asia)
- Whale and Dolphin Conservation/WDC (UK)
- Whale Rescue (New Zealand)
- Zoocheck (Canada)