



DOLPHIN AID NEWS 01/2007

THE YEAR OF THE DOLPHIN

Environmental pollution, industrial fishing and polluted water endanger the living space of dolphins. In order to care for clean oceans and protection areas, the United Nations declared 2007 the year of the dolphin. The Chinese river-dolphin has officially been declared extinct. Also called Bhaji, this first big mammal of the sea became extinct because mankind has destroyed his living space. If nothing is done, soon the same will happen to the dolphins living in the Mediterranean sea. These dolphins as well are in danger to become extinct. Dolphin aid has known for a long time that the animal has to be happy. Otherwise the interaction between dolphin and child will not work. The goal of this special year is undoubtedly the protection of the mammals of the sea. The biggest danger is the progressing pollution and continuous fishing in the Mediterranean. Fish are getting fished so rapidly that they do not stand a chance to regenerate. It is only a question of time until our oceans will be emptied of fish. Thus the dolphins will no longer find nourishment. The year of the dolphin is under the protection of Albert von Monaco. In September 2006 he, together with professional divers, installed the sculpture of a dolphin under water in Larvotto. The following web pages inform extensively about dolphins:

www.yod2007.org - official web page of the dolphin year

www.delphinschutz.org - association for the protection of dolphins

www.wale-delphine.de - about the history of these mammals of the sea, lectures as well as information where and how the animals can be watched live



THERAPY SPACES AT IDC AND CDTC

The following dates are still available for therapy:

IDC:

4/23-6/30, 7/9-22, 7/30-8/5, 9/3-11/16

CDTC:

11/12-23, 11/26-12/7, 12/10-21

OUR SPONSORS:

Aldiana Reunion Party: During a meeting of 1.000 former employees of Aldiana, a company that features dolphins in their logo, Euro 2.000.00 were raised for dolphin aid. 2 Euro per admission ticket were donated. Two days after the event took place the check was delivered to the dolphin aid headquarters in Dusseldorf.

Another Euro 5.000.00 were donated by the actor and dolphin aid ambassador Goetz Otto. He participated in the quiz show of Mr. Joerg Pilawa and donated his share of the price for our special-needs children.

Since the last Dolphin's Night in Germany the dolphin aid family has a new member. Actor Bernd Herzsprung decided to become an ambassador for dolphin aid and to help us in our good cause.

DOLPHIN AID - THERAPY FOR VICTIMS

This year alone 43 children have already participated in dolphin therapy. Among them also - Stephanie Rudolph, a 14 year old girl from Dresden who one year ago was held captive and was raped for five consecutive weeks before she could escape; and Kevin, an Ethiopian boy who last year was abused and severely beaten by a group of four teenagers hostile towards foreigners. While his physical wounds have healed, he is still dealing with the psychological impact. Kirsten Kuhnert cares on a very personal level about both cases. Just days after Stephanie's escape, she flew to Germany to escort the family under strictest secrecy to the USA for Stephanie's first trauma therapy.



The victim help of dolphin aid could react within a couple of hours. Mrs. Kuhnert is supported by our many ambassadors such as: Goetz Otto, Barbara Becker, Howard Carpendale, Tatjana Patitz, Ralf Moeller, Bernd Herzsprung, Norbert Dobeleit, Juliane Hielscher and Claudine Wilde.

NEWS FROM RESEARCH

In order to research dolphin therapy even further, the medical board of dolphin aid works together with Mr. Bernd Johannes from the German Society for areal- and astronautical technique on a water-resistant and wireless EEG. This should not only allow the recording of brain-streams of children and dolphins but will also enable the measuring of pulse frequency, blood-pressure, etc. The first trial on men will take place at the delphinarium in Duisburg under the assistance of leading veterinarian Gracia Hartmann.

NEWS FROM CDTC

The Curacao dolphin therapy center offers now, under the management of family therapist Nicole Laemmermann, a relaxation workshop for parents. An hour of relaxation, letting go and gaining new power from the relaxation technique "autogenous training" after Professor H.J. Schultz.

GUIDE DOGS - HELP AROUND THE CLOCK

Approximately 1-2 % of blind people in Germany have a guide dog. A trained guide dog knows around 40 hearing commands. With proper training it could be up to 400. In order not to lose this ability, their owners are required to involve themselves intensely with the animal as well as train these commandos regularly. Only quiet, peaceful, intelligent, calm and healthy dogs qualify for the training. Tests will be conducted as early as when they are puppies. Respective puppies will be socialized in foster homes. Preferred races are poodles, schnauzer,



German shepherd, labradors and golden retrievers, as well as mutts. Their shoulder height should be between 50 and 65 cm. The costs of training are paid by the health system. The training itself can take up to 12 months. A new version are guide horses. These miniature horses, mainly found in the USA sometimes, however, already in Germany, can be trained to live with special needs persons within their household. They are about the size of a Bernardine.

THE DOLPHIN - A MAMMAL OF THE SEA

Dolphins are part of the whale family. Thus they are not fish, but mammals of the sea. With approximately 40 different kinds, dolphins are the biggest family of the whales and can be found in all oceans. They are mostly between 1,5 and 4 meters and have a streamlined body, which turns them into excellent swimmers with speeds reaching up to 55 kilometers per hour. They possess a small organ in their head, called the melon, which has an important role in the echolocation. Dolphins have a long snout with a lot of teeth. The color of the body varies between shades of gray. Their bellies, however, are always lighter. Dolphins have good hearing and senses. While they possess ears, they most likely do not function. Noises are carried from the lower jaw to the middle- and inner-ear. The eyes are mainly for seeing under water. The brain of the dolphin is big, possessing a complete cerebral cortex. This is why many zoologists believe them to be among the most intelligent animals. Dolphins are very social, living in groups, so called "schools". These "schools" may consist of as many as 1.000 animals. Membership, however, is not that tight. Changes between groups are possible. Dolphins sleep through allowing half of their brain to fall asleep and stay awake with the other half. Therefore their respiration remains intact. Furthermore, one eye remains open so they can survey their surroundings as well as possible attackers. While sleeping, the dolphin, however, is less mobile. As with whales, the dolphin gives birth to only one child. The pregnancy lasts one year. The calves remain 6 years with their mothers but the little dolphins start looking for their own food at a very young age.