



DOLPHIN AID NEWS - 02/2006

GALA-DOLPHIN'S NIGHT 2006

This year's Gala-Dolphin's Night will be held on October 2006 in Duesseldorf. Tickets for the event can be obtained per fax (0203/7481063) or E-mail (jehles@dolphin-aid.net)

INTERVIEWS WITH TWO OF our lady AMBASSADORS

BIRGIT LECHTERMANN

Birgit Lechtermann one of the founding members and since then ambassadress of dolphin aid tells in an interview that she had been friends with Kirsten Kuhnert the founder and president of our organization since their childhood. Thus she shared with her friend the difficult time of Tim's near drowning accident and his resulting coma of 15 months. But she also shared the joy of the "miracle" when Tim after only a few days with the dolphins finally came out of his coma, smiled for the first time and steadily regained life. Since its foundation dolphin aid has developed into an organization that enables more and more children not only from Germany, but meanwhile from over the world, to participate in dolphin assisted or even dolphin aid therapy. Mrs. Lechtermann is proud to be part of this development. She also helps children in other venues like in front and behind the camera, she works with young aspiring co-workers and develops new TV-formats. She particularly enjoys her new TV-series for kids.

BARBARA BECKER

Mrs. Barbara Becker is an active member of our dolphin aid family and works in her capacity as ambassadress in many wonderful ways for our cause and our children. Whenever possible Mrs. Becker supports our foundation - at events, or preferably when receiving donations for our children. She tells friends and acquaintances about dolphin aid. Currently she acts as the anchor woman for the new fundraising campaign of dolphin aid sponsor, German Hardcopy and is therewith promoting the cartridge-recycling program of Geha for dolphin aid, which will benefit our children. Also a BB designed charity shirt is in the planning. Mrs. Becker joined as a result of her personal friendship with Mrs. Kirsten Kuhnert. She is deeply impressed with Mrs. Kuhnert's engagement and is herself proud to be part of dolphin aid.

HUMANS AND ANIMALS - A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP

Animal supported therapies are gaining increasingly in popularity. Since the beginning of mankind the destiny of animals and humans had been closely intertwined. Animals were a source of food and danger but had always also been useful helpers, companions and protectors. Scientists are trying to find out why animals are having such a positive impact on therapies. Psychologist and sociologists as well are for instance trying to answer questions such as: "Why do people have domestic pets?" and "How and when do people and their pets communicate?" It is proven that people living with animals are more satisfied and well-balanced. On average they become sick less frequently and less



gravely. Children especially benefit from pets. They develop a stronger immune system and learn to share responsibilities.

THAT'S AMERICA

Each year in the spring in Palm Beach, Florida an auction takes place to benefit a good cause. This year - among other objects - statues of horses, crocodiles, pelicans but also 20 dolphins were auctioned. Mr. and Mrs. Gunter Brinkwirth, friends of our organization (the couple's daughter Babette also belongs to the staff of dolphin human therapy in Key Largo) wanted to auction one of this dolphins to support dolphin aid. The auction, however, gained record highs and Mr. and Mrs. Brinkwirth sadly ended up with no dolphin. Upon leaving the auction they met Mr. and Mrs. Siro and Roberta Degasperis, a very engaged couple supporting many charitable projects. After Mr. and Mrs. Brinkwirth briefly told them about their own misfortune Mr. and Mrs. Degasperis gave them the dolphin they had just purchased as a gift. Thanks to this generous gesture this dolphin with the name "Ancient Mariner" wonderfully crafted by the artist Jerilyn Brown is now proudly displayed at the therapy center in Key Largo.

INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT

Our home page www.dolphin-aid.de provides you with important information regarding our organization, forms and essential back ground information. Divided into eleven different areas you will be able to gain insight about the fundamentals of dolphin therapy.

Since the beginning of April 2006 until the end of June 2006, 112 children have successfully attended dolphin therapy in one of the following therapy centers: Dolphin Human Therapy, Curacao Dolphin Therapy Center or Island Dolphin Cove.

Our dolphin aid ambassador Mr. Norbert Dobeleit recently visited Dolphin Human Therapy in Key Largo. He stated after his visit that he was very happy to have been able to have this experience for himself.

HI - I AM SPUNKY

"Hi - I am Spunky!" That could be the translation once the therapy dolphins in Key Largo Florida start their whistling. Researchers have now discovered that dolphins indeed have individual names and are able to identify themselves through them.

For a long time, the noise repertoire of mammals has been at the center of research. Many assumed that some kind of dolphin-speech is hidden behind the whistling, squeaking and rattling sounds. The Berlin-based scientist and behavioral biologist, Dr. Frank Veit, has introduced respective results during the dolphin aid-initiated symposium for dolphin therapy under the guidance of Prof. Oerter at the Ludwig-Maximilian University Munich.

Similar, but even more profound, findings can now be presented. A team of researchers under zoologist Vincent Janik from the Scottish university at St. Andrews was able to prove that dolphins develop individual whistling tones. These tones serve the purpose of telling others their own position, and are also used by other group animals to address individual animals. Thus, dolphin mums,



when separated from their babies, call them by their individual whistling tone until the off-springs are back.

These dolphin names are whistling tones, resulting from a certain series of different frequencies, and are developed by young dolphins themselves. Shortly after their birth, the young animals know only a few sequences of notes. However, they quickly learn more whistles and variations. After a few weeks they use their own individual whistling tone in order to tell other dolphins their own position in turbid water. Dolphins then keep this personal tone, the so-called signature whistle, for their lifetime.

Furthermore, zoologist Vincent Janik was able to prove that this signature whistle itself does not provide the assignment of individual dolphins through individual voice abilities of the animals but that, in reality, the sequence of tones therefore is the dominant criteria. Thus he has recorded different name-calls from great tumblers in Sarasota Bay, Florida. He then produced them synthetically, meaning completely without specific voice characteristics. Nevertheless the dolphins responded to these sounds in the same way as if called by members of their same species.

The advantage of signature whistles is obvious: To recognize other members of the same species dolphins, like many other animals too, use their eyes as well as their sense of smell and sense of touch. However, especially in turbid water and over larger distances, tones are of better service. Based on the fact that indeed the series of tones and not the kind of transmission enables the identification, Spunky and his friends do not mind when pressure conditions (and therefore the acoustic characteristics) change.

Even so, with the success of these new findings resulting in a big step in the research of dolphin speech, the personal talk with Flipper still remains an unlikely dream. But maybe this wordless, magical way in which the dolphins touch us and give rise to so many wonderful things is more meaningful and more personal than any common language could ever be....!

A NEW TREND FOR A BETTER WORLD

1. Donate blood
2. For your vacation study a couple of sentences in the language of your destination
3. Use toilet paper produced from recycled paper
4. Get rid off your jeep
5. Give your phone number to your neighbor
6. Eat more frequently with your whole family
7. Do not listen to prejudices
8. And of course donate to dolphin aid.....!

ACTIONS AND EVENTS

Art for Sabrina

Sabrina's mother told the artist Jutta Beyer about her daughter and dolphin therapy. The artist decided at the spur of the moment to auction off her paintings to help Sabrina. Thus far 1.400.00 Euro have been collected.



Swimming pool - "Delphin Hollenstedt"

For five years children have been learning how to swim at this facility. Some of "our" children as well had prepared themselves for their dolphin therapy at this pool. Through a special event including refreshments, tombola, dart, wheel of fortune and even a real "merry go round" 500.00 Euro were donated to dolphin aid.

Check delivery at ITB

Under the motto: "Little Bear - great help" three Hotels, situated in the Saarland a regional area of Germany, sold cute little teddy-bears to their guests. This way the amount of 1,000.00 Euro was raised and was given in the form of a symbolic check to the Managing Director of dolphin aid Mr. Kay Evers during the international tourism fair in Berlin.

Special thanks

A special "Thank you" to the travel agency Welter located in Kottenheim. This travel agency donated the respectable amount of 1,850.00 Euro to dolphin aid.

A special thanks also to all participants in our "bet" which team will become soccer champion, supporting dolphin aid with their donation of 10.00 Euro each.

A Caribbean night for dolphin aid

On the occasion of ITB a Caribbean night for dolphin aid was held by holiday autos at the beginning of March in Berlin. Most important theme of this event: To help the children from dolphin aid! Approximately 800 partying guests all donated for our cause. Thus the very same evening a symbolic check in the amount of 8,360.00 Euro was given to our Managing Director Mr. Kay Evers and ambassadress Mrs. Juliane Hielscher.

HER WAY BACK INTO LIFE

14 year old Stephanie Rudolph from Dresden, Germany was held captive for five weeks in a sex offender's apartment. During this time she was repeatedly abused. Despite this ordeal Stephanie can now smile again - thanks to dolphin aid. Dolphin therapy works well with traumatized, abused children, allows them to forget their horrible experience at least for a couple of hours and gives them back their courage and self-confidence. Under the highest observance of secrecy Stephanie was accompanied by Kirsten Kuhnert herself on her flight to Florida. Dr. Nathanson and his team in Key Largo were prepared. The German psychologist Mrs. von Fallois worked two weeks with Stephanie in Key Largo. In these two weeks at DHT Stephanie indeed learned how to laugh again. She is now able to allow once again closeness and gains more and more new self-assurance.



NEWS from dolphin aid America

Earlier this year young Brody Sorensen from Utah successfully attended two weeks of therapy in Curacao. A little girl Dania Caviedes from Fort Myers, Florida will also attend therapy at the end of this August at Dolphin Human Therapy in Key Largo.

Due to the most generous donation of various friends and acquaintances of Mr. and Mrs. Guenter and Gabi Brinkwirth a third child, this time a little boy from Ohio, will also be able to obtain dolphin therapy in Key Largo. We would like to thank for the participation of Mr. and Mrs. Brinkwirth in allowing us to receive generous donations through their friends.

For the fifth year dolphin aid was able to raise money through the kindness of Dr. Eisermann allowing us to sell raffle tickets at his mother's day get-together at the Institute for reproductive medicine. Together with the generous donation of Dr. Eisermann's company money was raised for our cause. Assisting in the sale were Kira Kuhnert, Jacky Eisermann and Michelle Luchau. Unfortunately Tim Kuhnert was occupied with other items on his busy shedule and could not be with us this year and he was dearly missed.

A good amount of money was raised through the sale of "betting tickets" which team will become soccer champion. Unfortunately there was to be no winner since none of our participants did bet on the new soccer world champion Italy. Most importantly however the donation of \$ 10.00 each supports our cause helping special-needs-children that are so dear to our hearts.