



DOLPHIN AID NEWS 04/2006

DOLPHIN THERAPY IN NUREMBERG?

Over the last five years a series of research projects in reference to dolphin therapy took place. Professor Erwin Breitenbach from the University in Wuerzburg presented these results recently to the public. From the very beginning dolphin aid watched these attempts with certain skepticism. The dolphinarium in Nuremberg had been criticized again and again over the last years. Dr. Lorenzo von Fersen hopes to create a better environment for the dolphins through the construction of a new dolphinarium. Whether in this context dolphin-therapy will finally be offered in Germany remains to be seen from an animal protection point of view.

"DOLPHIN SAVE" TUNA

Very often dolphins get caught up in the nets of fishermen fishing for tuna. Like the tuna itself the dolphins die tangled up in the net. The Earth Island Institute developed one of the biggest not federal environmental control programs. These programs are also being honored in Germany. Therefore special types of nets are no longer allowed to be used and schools of dolphins are not allowed to be circled. Special controllers of the Earth Island Institute furthermore control fish factories. Their German web page is www.thunfischliste.de.

OUR THERAPY CHILDREN AND NEW AMBASSADORS

Last year a total of 315 children attended dolphin therapy. Since October alone another 55 children participated in dolphin therapy. Mr. Howard Carpendale and Mr. Bernd Herzsprung joined our organization as new ambassadors.

GOOD BYE DHT

After the year 2006 Dr. Nathanson will not continue with his program Dolphin Human Therapy at Dolphin Cove in Key Largo. Despite many critics he has improved the life of many special needs children since 1978 and has given their way to rehabilitation a positive turn. Almost 500 children each year - more than 70 % of these children came through dolphin aid from Germany. The facility was closed on October 27, 2006. Dolphin aid has accepted the challenge of creating new therapy spots as soon as possible and continuing the task of Dr. Nathanson for the many patients. We have Dr. Nathanson's promise to be there for us whenever we call for him.



ACTIONS AND EVENTS

The managing director of dolphin aid Mr. Kay Evers was given a check in the amount of 15.000.00 Euro by Penny Markt GmbH.

Irena and the rainbow-kids erected an information booth for sisters Jessica (17) and Vanessa Henkel (16) from Niederwinkling. A total of 850.00 Euro could be collected and will be used towards dolphin therapy in Curacao.

Our long term ambassadress Barbara Becker has taken on a new project for dolphin aid. In the month of December she was supporting dolphin aid through an extensive charity project at two Outlet Villages in Germany - Wertheim Village near Frankfurt and Ingolstadt Village near Munich. Until December 30, 2006 you could find various information boards and donation boxes throughout these villages.

Just in time for the new year dolphin aid came out with a beautiful dolphin calendar, which can be obtained via www.amazon.com. Through its purchase you not only give somebody joy throughout the year but you also help a good cause. For every calendar sold the publishing house "te NEUES" donates a certain percentage to dolphin aid.

Last year's gala "Dolphin's Night 2006" was held for the fifth time on October 21, 2006 in Dusseldorf, Germany. Many friends and mentors of dolphin aid, many celebrities and our ambassadors attended. Guests were chauffeured to the InterConti in Dusseldorf in stretch limousines where hostess of the gala as well as president of dolphin aid Mrs. Kirsten Kuhnert was waiting for them. Many onlookers and photographers attended this spectacle while celebrities such as Bernd Herzprung, Birgit Lechtermann, Ralf Moeller and Tamara Sedmark arrived. Hugo Egon Balder and ambassadress Birgit Lechtermann lead through the evening. Haddaway and Roberto Blanco together with Irena and the rainbow-kids sang for more than 350 guests. Later in the evening DJ John Juergens, an ambassador of dolphin aid himself, did put on the music. Thus 130.000.00 Euro could be collected, parts of it were raised through the sale of tombola tickets and through donations. Through the presence of the media information about dolphin therapy and dolphin aid could be widely spread. Not only because of the gala but throughout the year dolphin aid and "our" children were widely presented in the media. Articles about fundraisers as well as TV documentations about this form of therapy, interviews with our ambassadors and extensive footage about success in research informed the public extensively.



HIPPO THERAPY

Hippo therapy - therapy with a horse is a purely physio therapeutic form of therapy. The therapists use the movement that the patient experiences on the back of the horse. The smoothing effect of the rhythmic movement helps with various orthopedic impairments and illnesses. It enables specific training of body position, balance and support reactions as well as regulation of the muscle tonus. It is a valuable addition to physio therapeutic treatment measures and can especially help where more conventional methods can no longer help. This therapy is especially suited for treatments of the central nerve system as well as of the support and mobility system. Thus it can be soothing and harmonious for spasm and incomplete paraplegia syndrome. The therapy mostly takes about 30 minutes and the therapist must have qualified additional training. There is also the form of therapeutic pedagogy. This form helps to minimize fears and insecurities, to raise trust and self competence, it teaches self esteem, trains concentration and supports the sensor motoric development. The horse itself stands as teacher and partner. The third form of therapeutic horseback riding is handicapped-horseback riding. The ability of the horsemen is the main focus. Blind riders are using acoustic signals while special saddles or leashes help e.g.. horsemen with only one leg or impaired mobility of arms or fingers. Horseback riding offers physical enjoyment as well as the possibility of social contacts and is a wonderful hobby at the same time.

THE YEAR 2006 AT CDTC

In the third year since its foundation more than 300 children attended the dolphin therapy center in Curacao. 142 of these children and their families attended for more than their first time. All together they had been 25 therapy rounds in the last year alone. The CDTC family is growing. Since the beginning of the year there is dolphin lady "GeeGee" with her son "Pepito". Therefore CDTC could raise their therapy capacity by four children. But this also means more staff. CDTC is supported by Floor (children-, youth- and sport psychologist) from Holland and Nicole Lammermann (certified psychologist and family therapist) from Germany. Natalie, Barbara and Fiona are new dolphin trainers. In July speech therapist Heike was officially certified by dolphin aid. In total 24 inters accompanied the path of this therapy center in 2006. They had many visitors among them several film crews and journalists. Furthermore the CDTC received an award - the dolphin aid Award of Excellence 2006 to honor the finest dolphin assisted therapy facility.



THE YEAR AT DOLPHIN AID AMERICA

It had been a successful year for dolphin aid America. Several children could attend therapy through the aid of dolphin aid America. For the very first time an American child flew to Curacao to attend therapy at CDTC. Luckily this year there had not been any hurricane in the sunshine state.