

## Umah Lumba Rehabilitation, Release and Retirement Center

From [Ric O'Barry's Dolphin Project.com](http://RicOBarry'sDolphinProject.com)

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The **Umah Lumba Rehabilitation, Release and Retirement Center** in Banyuwedang Bay, West Bali, Indonesia is the first and only permanent dolphin rehabilitation, release and retirement facility for formerly performing dolphins. In September 2019, BKSDA Bali Forestry Department and the Ministry of Forestry initiated the idea. Working with local partners Jakarta Animal Aid Network to supply the manpower and Dolphin Project to provide the financial support and supervision, the Umah Lumba Center was built. (“Umah Lumba” means “dolphin house” in Balinese.)

The facility is designed to stabilize recently confiscated dolphins from captive facilities, or stranded or injured dolphins, return them back to health and to assess whether they are candidates for readaptation and release.

For dolphins deemed releasable, they will be taken to [Camp Lumba Lumba Readaptation and Release Center](#) in Karimun Jawa, the world’s first permanent facility dedicated to the rehabilitation and release of dolphins. The mammals will then be prepared for return into their home range. The location was specifically chosen because the majority of dolphins were captured from the Karimunjawa National Park, and releasing them here would offer a good chance for the mammals to reunite with their family pods.

For dolphins deemed unreleasable, they can retire at the Umah Lumba Center in a safe and healing seapen, and live out the rest of their lives in peace and dignity.

Rescued dolphins will receive 24/7 round-the-clock care. We have a full-time staff veterinarian, security guards and caregivers. The center is a true rehabilitation, release and retirement facility, where our team is committed to making the dolphins' lives as natural and independent as possible. In March 2020, Dolphin Project, in anticipation of the arrival of additional confiscated dolphins (due to the COVID-19 pandemic) tripled the size of our facility.

As the world's first permanent dolphin rehabilitation, release and retirement facility in the world, the Umah Lumba Center must be a model of success. Ideally, it will act as a prototype for others to be built globally, as demand for captive dolphins wane.

Rambo and Rocky have now returned to open waters. Post-release, our work is intensive: from tracking and monitoring the dolphins by boat, preparation for future rescues, ongoing maintenance of the Umah Lumba Center, and community outreach efforts, campaign costs are significant.

Your symbolic adoption of Rambo or Rocky will help offset their post-release expenses. In addition, your support will help ensure that the Umah Lumba Center remains open for other dolphins for years to come.



*Rambo at the Umah Lumba Center, Bali, Indonesia*

It's hard to envision the suffering endured by Rambo, violently captured from the ocean and forced to perform in Indonesia's notorious traveling dolphin circus. If that wasn't enough, this young dolphin was then confined inside a small swimming pool in the Melka Excelsior Hotel in North Bali, where, day after day, was forced to perform for paying tourists during loud theatrical shows. Since his rescue in 2019, Rambo rehabilitated at the Umah Lumba Center, transforming into a highly energetic individual that is full of life. Our 24/7 expert team of veterinarians and caregivers evaluated Rambo for release back into the wild, and, on September 3, 2022 the gate at the Umah Lumba Center was opened. Johnny, Rocky and Rambo swam out towards the open ocean. From post-release tracking, to preparing for future rescues, there is still much work to be done. Adopt Rambo today to help support these efforts!



*Rocky at the Umah Lumba Center, Bali, Indonesia*

Imagine being captured from the wild, then forced to perform in one of the world's most abusive shows – the traveling dolphin circus. That's what happened to Rocky. But it didn't end there.

After spending years as a circus performer, he was then sold to the Melka Excelsior Hotel in North Bali, where, for 10 years, he was confined to a small swimming pool, interacting with an endless stream of tourists. Since we rescued Rocky in 2019, here, in the crystal clear waters of the Umah Lumba Center, he gained weight and strength, and enjoyed the natural rhythms and sounds of the sea. Our 24/7 expert team of veterinarians and caregivers evaluated Rocky for release back into the wild, and, on September 3, 2022 the gate at the Umah Lumba Center was opened. Johnny, Rocky and Rambo swam out towards the open ocean. From post-release tracking, to preparing for future rescues, there is still much work to be done. Adopt Rocky today to help support these efforts!

With a **recommended minimum donation of \$25**, you'll get a personalized adoption certificate for Rocky (its beautiful artwork suitable for framing), gorgeous underwater photos which are perfect for adorning all your electronic devices, Rocky's biography, Dolphin Facts, a Dolphin Warrior booklet and quarterly updates about Rocky!

#### *Remembering Johnny*



Captured in the Java Sea, Johnny was carted from town to town, and forced to perform in a plastic pool in Indonesia's traveling circus. His next stop was a heavily chlorinated swimming pool in the Melka Excelsior Hotel in North Bali, where, for many years, this older dolphin was held in isolation. When Johnny was rescued, his condition was deplorable from years of abuse and neglect. At Umah Lumba, he regained his strength and weight. He played, dove and ate his fill under the sun and stars, slowly healing in the natural, saltwater currents of the bay. We are so grateful we had the opportunity to make the last few years of his life peaceful with round-the-clock care that prioritized his well-being, not that of the paying customers he had to cater to for most of his life. In November 2022, **Johnny succumbed to a respiratory illness.**

#### *Remembering Dewa*



Captured in the Java Sea, Dewa was an older dolphin who was severely affected by the trauma he suffered during his confinement at the Melka Excelsior Hotel in North Bali. There, he spent years confined in the hotel's shallow, heavily chlorinated swimming pool, exploited in a commercial dolphin-assisted therapy program for people with paralysis and other disabilities. Our rescue team transferred Dewa from the swimming pool to our facility on October 8, 2019. Since we introduced Dewa to natural sea water, his condition improved but he was still plagued with several health problems including chronic pneumonia. Sadly, Dewa succumbed to his longstanding illness and took his last breath on March 11, 2020.

#### *Remembering Gombloh*



Gombloh was captured in the Java Sea and, sadly, did not survive his encounter with humans. Gombloh died at the Melka Excelsior Hotel in North Bali on August 3, 2019, just two days before our team was able to rescue Gombloh's beloved companion Rambo. We are happy we arrived at the hotel in time to rescue Rambo, Rocky, Dewa, and Johnny from the shallow and heavily chlorinated swimming pools, but at the same time heartbroken that we got there too late to get Gombloh out of there. We will always remember Gombloh, who is one of countless dolphins to have fallen victim to consumers' demand to watch dolphins perform and to swim with them.

*The Umah Lumba Rehabilitation, Release and Retirement Center and Camp Lumba Lumba Readaptation and Release Center form an incredible partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia, BKSDA Bali, Dolphin Project, Jakarta Animal Aid Network, Karimunjawa National Park and the West Bali National Park. Together, we built Umah Lumba, the world's only permanent dolphin rehabilitation, release and retirement facility for previously captive dolphins and Camp Lumba Lumba, the world's first permanent facility dedicated to the readaptation and release of dolphins in Kemujan, Karimun Jawa. Ric O'Barry, Founder/Director of Dolphin Project has pioneered readaptation for captive dolphins and has released a number of dolphins into the wild.*