



October 5, 2020

Pascal Ferracci, CEO
Parques Reunidos

Dear Mr. Ferracci,

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) following the news that France has banned marine parks from breeding or acquiring new orcas and other dolphins and its intention to transition Wikie, Inouk, Moana, and Keijo from Marineland Antibes to seaside sanctuaries within the next two years. As the new CEO of Parques Reunidos, which owns this park and the Miami Seaquarium, we urge you to act now to make arrangements to move Lolita from Miami to a seaside sanctuary as well.

For over 50 years, Lolita has been unable to dive, swim any meaningful distance, or seek shelter from the scorching Florida sun while confined to the world's smallest orca tank. She's been without the companionship of another orca since 1980, when her tankmate, Hugo, died after repeatedly ramming his head into a wall, likely because of the stress of extreme captivity.

Soon, the orcas currently confined at Marineland will be able to dive deep, feel ocean currents, and finally enjoy some semblance of a natural life. In a protected coastal pen, Lolita, too, must be allowed to experience all this and have the opportunity to see and communicate with the orca believed to be her mother as well as the rest of her family members, who still spend much of their time in the area where she was taken from them when she was just 4 years old.

France's move is right on trend, as the National Aquarium in the U.S. is building a seaside sanctuary for the dolphins it has, two whales have been moved from a marine park in China to a seaside sanctuary in Iceland, and The Whale Sanctuary Project has announced plans for such a sanctuary in Canada.

In the midst of the global pandemic and growing awareness of injustice to others, people are searching their souls and examining their impact on society. For most companies, this societal reckoning includes reflecting on all the deeply disturbing ways in which animals have been and still are being violated. We hope you will take an honest look at Parques Reunidos' practices and decide to move Lolita to a seaside sanctuary.

Very truly yours,

Ingrid E. Newkirk
President

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OF ANIMALS

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