

NEWS RELEASE

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OTTERLY ADORABLE! *Aquarium Welcomes its Newest Residents.*

RIVERHEAD, NY (June 17, 2010) – What has 12 webbed feet, three sets of delicate whiskers, and one big claim to fame? Three North American river otters recently born at [Atlantis Marine World](#) are the first litter born at the Aquarium to proud parents, PB&J.

Aquarium staff discovered the three pups on March 5 during a routine visit inside the exhibit [Otter Falls](#), which opened to the public in 2008. The pups remained secluded in their den with mom during the months of March and April – nursing, sleeping, and growing. Since May, mom has regularly brought her pups outdoors to teach them how to swim and to begin eating fish on their own.

“We are pleased and thrilled about the success of our first otter litter,” smiles Director of Training, Ann Yaiullo. “All five otters are thriving and it is a true delight to watch the family all together.”

While the sex of the baby otters has not yet been determined, Yaiullo is fairly certain that all three are male and is happy to announce their names: Cinnamon, Pepper, and Cocoa.

The pups will likely remain at the Aquarium for about a year (which is when pups normally leave their mothers) before being transferred to another reputable facility where their gene pool will be a valuable asset. Until then, the whole family can be observed swimming and playing much of the day during regular Aquarium hours – daily from 10:00am to 5:00pm – and observed eating during educator-led talks and feeds at 1:30pm and 3:30pm daily.

Visit the Aquarium’s YouTube channel for a video of the otters getting along swimmingly inside their home, *Otter Falls* (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IU9fuR4Zmj4>).

About the North American River Otter

The playful North American river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) is equally at home in the water as it is on land. Once abundant in the United States and Canadian rivers, lakes, and coastal areas, the North American river otter can today be found in parts of Canada, the Northwest, upper Great Lakes area, New England, and Atlantic and Gulf Coast states. Members of the weasel family, river otters enjoy sliding down muddy and snowy hills, bouncing objects on their paws, playing tag, and wrestling.

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About Atlantis Marine World Aquarium

Atlantis Marine World (AMW) opened in Riverhead, NY on June 15, 2000, as the first large-scale Aquarium to open in New York State in more than 35 years. Situated on 3.2 acres along the Peconic River, [AMW](#) is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily (closed December 25). [General Admission Rates](#) are \$18.50 (plus tax) for Children 3 – 17 and Seniors 62+; \$21.50 (plus tax) for Adults 18 – 61; Children 2 and under are always free at AMW. AMW is also the home of The Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation, New York's only authorized marine mammal and sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation center. Atlantis Marine World was recently ranked by *Parents Magazine* as one of the [“Top Aquariums for Kids.”](#) Additional information can be found at www.atlantismarineworld.com.