



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARIEL VIEW

Atlantis Marine World Staff Gets Up Close and Personal with Rescued Dolphin

Atlantis Marine World (AMW) staff and volunteers gets once-in-a-lifetime chance to work with a dolphin recently rescued by the Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation.

On September 28, The Riverhead Foundation rescued a young offshore bottlenose dolphin and her mother from the Sag Harbor Yacht Club. The mother was very compromised, however, and died upon arrival to the Foundation. The surviving dolphin, appropriately named after Disney's orphan mermaid, Ariel, is currently housed at Atlantis Marine World.

Ariel, estimated to be about a year old, is the first of her kind to be rescued and transferred into rehabilitation in New York State. She weighs more than 200 lbs, is over six feet long, and is eating eagerly. Most importantly, Ariel is not showing any signs of illness. But dolphins, like any other animal removed from their natural environment, need constant enrichment and mental stimulation. The Riverhead Foundation is therefore organizing a Dolphin Enrichment Team to include AMW staff and volunteers.

"Without the continued support from AMW, our volunteers, and the public, Ariel's rescue and care would not be possible," praised Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation Director Robert DiGiovanni.

The team will work with Ariel to keep her stimulated and active. They will utilize enrichment objects, such as noodles, hula hoops, floating tubes, as part of the rehabilitation process. Since these next few weeks are the most critical for Ariel, Foundation biologists and the Enrichment Team will be monitoring Ariel closely. Visitors to the Foundation's Web site will also be able to watch an active feed of her progress, along with these interactions, by clicking on www.riverheadfoundation.org. The feed will also be broadcast in the Foundation's Rescue Center as well.

"Once again, wildlife will benefit from the unique partnership between the Foundation and AMW where our mutual goal is to work together to protect and preserve our environment," DiGiovanni stated.

Atlantis Marine World, Long Island's own full-scale Aquarium, is located in downtown Riverhead on 3.2 acres along the scenic Peconic River. By capturing our visitors' imaginations and emphasizing the importance of marine life and environmental conservation and preservation, Atlantis Marine World's mission is to provide visitors with an interactive and exciting educational experience. Atlantis Marine World 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.

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