



An international organization dedicated to conservation through public display, education, and research

**STATEMENT BY KATHLEEN DEZIO, ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
IN RESPONSE TO PETA COMPLAINT ABOUT ANIMAL CARE AT SEAWORLD
GIVEN AT SEAWORLD PRESS CONFERENCE IN SAN DIEGO
OCTOBER 21, 2014**

The Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums is an international association and accrediting body representing 64 marine life parks, aquariums, zoos, research facilities, and professional organizations dedicated to the highest standards of care for marine mammals and to their conservation in the wild through public education, scientific study, and wildlife presentations. Alliance members collectively represent the largest body of marine mammal expertise and experience in the world.

As a long-time accredited and founding Alliance member, SeaWorld San Diego fulfills the Alliance's stringent requirements on marine mammal husbandry, training, education, and veterinary care practices. By meeting these highest standards, SeaWorld San Diego is ranked among the best marine mammal parks and aquariums in the world. Guests visiting their park can be assured that they are supporting a facility that is a leader in the care and conservation of its animals.

The PETA allegations are ludicrous and completely inconsistent with the very high standards and practices required of SeaWorld by our accrediting organization and by the U.S. government—standards our inspectors have seen time and again that SeaWorld San Diego meets or exceeds.

This latest complaint by PETA is a publicity stunt that does a tremendous disservice to SeaWorld, an organization that not only gives its own animals the best possible care but also does so much to rescue and rehabilitate animals in the wild. PETA's resources would be better spent assisting the thousands of marine mammals currently threatened from ship strikes, overfishing, marine debris, and other dangers instead of attacking SeaWorld.

The Alliance fully supports SeaWorld's animal husbandry and conservation practices, and we look forward to continuing to work with SeaWorld in furthering public education and advocacy for wildlife conservation.

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