



CLEARWATER MARINE
AQUARIUM™

***CMA Releasing Cheeto, The Lucky Seahorse
Remarkable Seahorse Headed Home after Amazing Recovery***

PRESS RELEASE

Clearwater, FL (May 15, 2017) –“Cheeto,” the lucky seahorse, who has captivated many worldwide with her remarkable story of survival, is being released back home tomorrow, Tuesday, May 16th, after rehabilitating at Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

Clearwater Marine Aquarium, has been providing care for Cheeto, a female lined seahorse, since April 26th, after she was dropped at the feet of a little girl and her Mom by a seagull, on Indian Shores Beach, in Pinellas County, Florida. Having visited the aquarium, the Mom knew to call CMA, known for the rescue, rehabilitation and release of marine life of all sizes.

After Cheeto’s condition was stabilized, CMA launched the “Cheeto Cam” on May 10th, to enable others to learn about seahorses and view the adorable Cheeto. Cheeto has been dining on a diet of ghost shrimp. She is now healthy enough to be released back into the wild.

“We are providing a high level of care for Cheeto and are thrilled she has the opportunity to be released so soon,” says David Yates, CEO, “We are pleased we have had the opportunity to rehabilitate her.”

Cheeto, the lucky seahorse, can be viewed until her release at <https://seewinter.com> on the “Cheeto Cam” or by visiting Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

Essential Media Information:

- Release date: Tuesday, May 16th.
- Release will be via boat (media space available, but limited), leaving CMA at 1:30 pm. Returning 2:15-2:30.
 - Clearwater Marine Aquarium 249 Windward Passage, Clearwater, FL.
- Underwater footage will be shot by CMA and provided to the Media, post release
- Photos of Cheeto will be available, as needed.
- CMA staff will be available for interviews before and after the release
- CMA will live broadcast the release on Facebook – the Winter Dolphin page

For further information, contact Bill Potts at bpotts@cm-aquarium.org or 727.858-3348.

About Clearwater Marine Aquarium:

Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working marine rescue center dedicated to inspiring the human spirit through leadership in education, research, rescue, rehabilitation and release. CMA is home to rescued dolphins, sea turtles, river

otters, stingrays, nurse sharks and more. Winter the dolphin's story of survival, after an injury that caused her to lose her tail, has impacted millions of people around the world. A major motion picture, *Dolphin Tale*, highlighted her life story in 2011. The sequel, *Dolphin Tale 2*, was released in September 2014 and features the incredible story of Hope, a young resident dolphin of CMA. The mission and potential to change people's lives differentiates Clearwater Marine Aquarium from any other aquarium in the world.

WE BELIEVE in preserving our environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of marine life, environmental education, research and conservation.

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A Florida non-profit 501(c)(3)