

***CMA Rehabilitating Cheeto, the Lucky Seahorse
Seahorse Dropped from the Sky by a Seagull***

PRESS RELEASE

Clearwater, FL (May 11, 2017) – Clearwater Marine Aquarium rescues and rehabilitates marine life of all sizes, from dolphins and sea turtles to other sea creatures in need. One little seahorse, named “Cheeto”, has captured hearts with its surprising story of survival, thanks to the quick actions of a little girl and her mother.

While enjoying a day at Indian Shores Beach, in Pinellas County, Florida, a seagull dropped what looked like a cheeto at a little girl’s feet. After realizing it was a seahorse, her mom called CMA for help. A CMA Rescue Team volunteer then brought the lucky seahorse, to the aquarium. After an intense week of care, Cheeto, a female orange lined seahorse, started eating grass shrimp. Cheeto now appears to be recovering nicely. When healthy, Cheeto will be released back home, into the wild.

“The level and amount of care we are providing Cheeto is indicative of the serious commitment and passion that CMA has for all marine life,” says David Yates, CEO, “Each creature is important to us, and we are fortunate to have the opportunity to rehabilitate Cheeto.”

Cheeto, the lucky seahorse, can be viewed at <https://seewinter.com> on the “Cheeto Cam” Or, Cheeto can be viewed by guests at CMA until its release back home.

Essential Media Information:

- Photos of Cheeto are attached. More images available upon request.
- Cheeto can be viewed on the Cheeto Cam at:
 - <https://www.seewinter.com/animals/webcams/cheeto-cam> or at
 - Clearwater Marine Aquarium 249 Windward Passage, Clearwater, FL.

For further information, contact Bill Potts at bpotts@cmaaquarium.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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