

MEDIA ALERT

Clearwater Marine Aquarium to release 2nd Seahorse

Follows the national story of Cheeto, the Lucky Seahorse

Clearwater, FL (June 8, 2017) – Less than two weeks after the release of [Cheeto the lucky seahorse](#), watched by millions around the world, another seahorse was improbably saved by caring tourists and the staff at Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Meet Funyun, the latest lucky seahorse. Funyun is a female lined seahorse, just like Cheeto, and was rescued near the same Pinellas County beach. Thanks to Cheeto's famous rescue story Funyun's rescuers knew to call Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

On Thursday, May 25th, Maria and her fiancé Joscelynne went for an early morning walk on Indian Rocks Beach. The two were on vacation from Ohio with Maria's family. While looking for seashells, they noticed something small and gray washed up on the sand. At first they thought it was a unique shell, but then realized it was breathing. They had inadvertently found a tiny seahorse struggling to survive. The two tried to place the seahorse back in the water, but it helplessly floated on the surface. They knew something was wrong, so Maria waited in the water with the seahorse while Joscelynne ran to find a bucket. Maria searched on her phone for a local rescue center and discovered Cheeto the seahorse's amazing rescue story. She quickly gave Clearwater Marine Aquarium a call.

Funyun arrived at Clearwater Marine Aquarium in serious condition. She suffered a buoyancy issue, struggling to swim and clinging to a branch to stop from floating to the surface. Her condition made it very difficult for her to catch food. The CMA team collaborated with veterinarians who specialize in seahorses to determine that the best course of treatment was to remove some of the air from her swim bladder. Using a small needle, excess air was carefully removed and soon enough she was swimming and eating normally.

"Incredibly, Cheeto's story of survival inspired the survival of another seahorse, Funyun. The level of care provided by the CMA team for Funyun, due to her serious condition, is remarkable," says David Yates, CEO, Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

Funyun is on her way to full recovery and will be released back to the wild on Monday, June 12 (pending weather and health condition). Media are invited. Funyun can be seen at Clearwater Marine Aquarium or check her out on the **Funyun Cam**: <https://www.seewinter.com/funyuncam>

Essential Media Information:

- What: Release of Funyun the seahorse.
- Where: Clearwater Marine Aquarium: 249 Windward Passage, Clearwater, FL
- When: Monday, June 12, 12:30 p.m.
- High resolution images and video available upon request.
- CMA staff available for on-camera interviews Friday, June 9, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Monday, June 12.

For further information, contact Julia Anderson at janderson@cmaquarium.org or 727.686.3499.

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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