

July 31, 2023

Health and Welfare Assessment of Tokitae (also known as Lolita), killer whale housed at Miami Seaquarium, Miami-Dade County, Florida.

Report of James McBain, DVM retired, and Stephanie Norman, DVM, PhD (Biographical statements below)

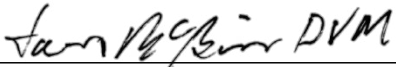
At the invitation of Friends of Toki, a non-profit organization co-founded by Pritam Singh and Charles Vinick, we are continuing our health and welfare assessments of Tokitae (Toki).

During July, Toki's condition has remained relatively stable. She is currently experiencing another bout of abdominal/stomach discomfort which has improved in the last 24 hours and we hope to resolve within the next few days. As previously, her energy, appetite, and engagement in daily activities have been steady. Since adding approximately 3-4% of squid to her diet we believe this has had a positive impact on her gastrointestinal tract. We plan to slowly increase the amount with the eventual goal of squid being approximately 10% of her daily diet. We continue to seek out the best quality fish for Toki, and are currently feeding the highest quality salmon, herring, and capelin available on the market from 2023 catches.

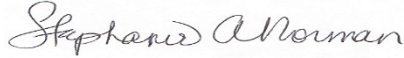
Toki's chuff cytology and bloodwork remain unremarkable. Her body condition continues to be good based on appearance, morphometric measurements, and BBI (body blubber index that determines the thickness of blubber related to her size). The lesion on her lung remains smaller in all dimensions on a recent ultrasound examination, and the white blood cells (WBCs) in her chuff samples remain very low. Toki continues to receive daily Faropenem and antifungal medications. As much as we would like to discontinue these therapies, we will continue them as long as the treatment is providing benefit. She is still fighting infection, but we are seeing continued incremental improvements to each of the parameters we are monitoring. In consultation with the veterinary team, trainers are now introducing Toki to her stretcher, and introducing conditioning exercises that increase her activity level.

The water quality team has continued to make improvements to her life support system. With very high temperatures in the Biscayne Bay source water this month, the team added two large portable chiller units to the system, enabling Toki's pool temperature to remain in the upper 50's, despite air and source water temperatures hovering in the upper 90s. The new ozone unit has allowed the team to discontinue chlorine as a disinfectant. Round the clock maintenance of life support and water quality is being well managed by staff.

Respectfully submitted:



James McBain, DVM retired



Stephanie Norman, DVM, PhD

Dr. James McBain, DVM, Retired Vice President of Corporate Veterinary Services for SeaWorld and Busch Garden Parks. is considered a pioneering expert in marine mammal veterinary medicine. His career at Sea World included serving as senior staff veterinarian corporate director of veterinarian medicine and Vice President of Corporate Veterinary Services. He has authored and coauthored more than 83 scientific papers, books and presentations on marine mammals and is recognized worldwide for his experience and expertise. Dr. McBain is seen by his peers as having fundamentally altered the way in which marine mammal medicine is practiced. Dr. McBain has served as a mentor and trained countless veterinarians seeking his specialized knowledge. In 2009 he received the Distinguished Veterinary Alumni Award for Outstanding Service from Washington State University.

Dr. Stephanie Norman, DVM, PhD, veterinary epidemiologist and wildlife veterinarian, received her DVM from Texas A&M University; her Master of Science in epidemiology from the University of Washington, Seattle; and her PhD in wildlife epidemiology from the University of California, Davis. She has been involved in the field of animal health, disease, and conservation for more than 20 years. Dr. Norman has extensive clinical and teaching experience, and has authored or co-authored more than 40 peer-reviewed scientific papers and reports. In addition, she has served as a wildlife epidemiologist for NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service.