

# press release

## Titjiriet ta' DHL jgħinu fir-rijabilitazzjoni ta' manatees fl-Istati Uniti

Bl-għajjnuna ta' DHL, il-fornitur ewlieni ta' servizzi ta' loġistika fid-dinja, seħħ is-Sea Cow Shuffle (moviment tal-baqar tal-baħar) fl-Istati Uniti iktar kmieni dan ix-xahar. Tlett manatees, Woodstock (miż-Zoo u Ġnien Botaniku ta' Cincinnati) u Pixie u Wheezy (miż-Zoo u Akwarju ta' Columbus) inħattu fuq trakk u tteħdu l-Ajruport Internazzjonali ta' Cincinnati/Kentucky ta' Fuq biex tgħabbew fuq titjira ta' DHL għal Florida. Magħhom kien hemm speċjalista fil-kura tal-animali u veterinarju minn dawn iż-zoos.

L-animali se jibqgħu taħt il-kura ta' esperti tal-manatees fil-Miami Seaquarium, SeaWorld Orlando u ż-Zoo ta' Lowry Park f'Tampa sax-xitwa, fejn hemm ċans li jiġu relaxxati fl-ibħra ta' Florida viċin il-postijiet fejn dawn ġew salvati oriġinarjament. Tagħmir tat-traċċar permezz tasatellita se jiġi mwaħħal ma tnejn minn dawn il-mammiferi kbar tal-baħar biex is-saħħa u l-kundizzjoni tagħhom tistgħu jiġu monitorjati kontinwament.

It-trasferiment tal-manatees, bejn il-11 u l-14 ta' Ottubru, tiffurma parti minn programm kontinwu biex jiġu salvati mammiferi tal-baħar li jispiċċaw orfni, imweġġgħin u abbandunati. Dawn jittieħdu f'centru ta' kura kritika u jintbagħtu f'zoos wara li saħħithom tiġi lura, u eventwalment jitfallew fielsa fil-baħar naturali.

**MOVING MANATEES FOR REHABILITATION**

The manatee move forms part of an ongoing program to save orphaned, injured and abandoned marine mammals, placing them in a critical care center like the Miami Seaquarium, and sending them to the zoos after they are restored to health, eventually returning them to the wild.

Manatees can be found in the warm waters of shallow rivers, bays, estuaries and coastal waters. They are well known for their gentle, slow-moving nature and have also been known to body surf or barrel roll when playing. They normally rest and feed often, and communicate by squealing under water to demonstrate fear, stress or excitement.

**LET'S LOOK AT THE FACTS:**

- Average Florida manatees weigh: 800-1200 lbs.
- Grow up to: 10ft
- Herbivores, and eat up to 50kg per day
- Popularly known as sea cows
- Grey skin similar to an elephant
- Average water temperature of 72°F
- Manatee habitat

Population in 2010: 5,076\*

Protection status: **ENDANGERED**

West Indian manatees in the United States are protected under federal law by the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act of 1978 and Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, which make it illegal to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal. Violations of these federal or state laws can be met with civil or criminal convictions associated with monetary fines and/or imprisonment.

Mortalities in 2011: 766

Mortalities in 2013\*\* : 742

**MANATEES ON THE MOVE**

**October 12, 2013**

- 1 Woodstock, Wheezy and Pixie flew from Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport (CVG) to Miami Airport (MIA)
- 2 MIA to marine parks
- 3 Woodstock and Wheezy moved to Miami Seaquarium
- 4 Pixie moved to Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo

**October 13, 2013**

- 5 Rae and Abigail flew from Miami Airport (MIA) to Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport (CVG)
- 6 CVG to zoos
- 7 Rae moved to the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium
- 8 Abigail moved to the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Woodstock weighs about 900 lbs., and was rescued off the Southwest coast of Florida in 2011 after her mother perished during a cold spell. She arrived at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens in January 2013.

Rae weighs about 400 lbs., and was brought to the Miami Seaquarium Critical Care Unit as an orphan from Key Largo in July 2012. She was only a couple of weeks old when she was rescued, weighing 55 lbs., and was bottle-fed by Miami Seaquarium staff until she could eat on her own.

The manatees returning to Florida are scheduled to be released into the wild after being observed at the respective aquariums.

Miami Seaquarium has a Critical Care Center for manatees and this move frees up space for more manatees to be rehabilitated. The manatees moving to Ohio will grow and gain weight, and will eventually be released into the wild.

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F'din l-operazzjoni, DHL ġarrew wkoll żewġ manatees oħra, Abigail u Rae, minn Miami għal żewġ zoos fl-Ohio, f'Cincinnati u Columbus, bħala parti mill-partecipazzjoni ta' dawn iż-zoos fil-Manatee Rescue & Rehabilitation Partnership (MRP – Sħubija biex Manatees jiġu Salvati u Rijabilitati).

Il-manatees jinstabu fl-ibħra sħan ta' xmajjar baxxi, bajjiet, postijiet fejn ix-xmajjar jiltaqqgħu mal-baħar u fl-ibħra tal-kosta. Magħrfin għan-natura ġentili tagħhom meta jimxu bil-mod u meta jkunu qegħdin jilagħbu, imorru fil-mewġ u jagħmlu movimenti b'idejhom. Normalment jistrieħu u jieklu sikwit ħafna, u jikkomunikaw billi jgħijtu taħt l-ilma biex juru biża, stress u eċitament.

“Mingħajr dubju, il-manatees huma wieħed mill-kreaturi l-iktar karizmatiċi u ċertament huma fost l-animali l-iktar popolari fiż-żewġ zoos ta' Ohio,” qal Thane Maynard, Direttur ta' Cincinnati Zoo u Ġnien Botaniku. “Aħna kburin immens li niffurmaw parti minn dan il-programm ta' konservazzjoni u eċitati nilqgħu kemm lil Abigail u l-Rae f'Ohio.”

DHL forniet il-kaxex li fihom tqiegħdu l-manatees f'kaxxa tal-merkanzija bis-saqaf miftuħ li ġie msakkar fl-istiva tal-merkanzija f'kull ajruport. Il-manatees iżżammew kemm jista' jkun il-bogħod mill-ħoss tal-magni waqt li steneded biex tgħabbew u l-kaxex telgħu l-aħħar biex ikunu jistgħu jitinizzli l-ewwel malli wasslu fid-destinazzjoni tagħhom.

“DHL huma kuntenti ħafna jagħtu sehmhom f'dan il-proġett importanti biex il-manatees jistgħu jiġu trasportati u rijabilitati,” qal Joe Collopy, risponsabbli għall-bejgħ fir-regjun għal DHL Express Americas fil-hub ta' Cincinnati. “DHL Express għandhom ħafna snin ta' esperjenza jgħorru animali ħajjin b'suċċess madwar id-dinja – kollu in parti biex jagħtu kontribut lix-xogħol importanti taż-zoos biex jiproteġu speċje protetti li huma mhedda.”

– Tmiem –

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**DHL** – The Logistics company for the world

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DHL Express was set up as a wholly owned subsidiary in Malta in 1983. It has 41 employees and operates from a dedicated logistics centre at Malta International Airport.

DHL is part of Deutsche Post DHL. The Group generated revenue of €53 billion in 2011.

For more information: [www.dp-dhl.com](http://www.dp-dhl.com)