

July 13, 2009

Dr. Elizabeth Goldentyer
Regional Director
USDA/APHIS/AC

[REDACTED]

Via fax and e-mail: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Dear Dr. Goldentyer:

Please consider this letter an official request for the USDA to investigate the following allegations reported to PETA by a whistleblower regarding **SeaWorld of Florida in Orlando, Fla., license #58-C-0077.**

On Thursday, July 9, a dolphin named Dixie who is used in SeaWorld's Discovery Cove "swim with dolphins" attraction gave birth to a stillborn infant. The birth reportedly occurred at approximately 1 a.m. Although it was known that the birth was imminent, allegedly a veterinarian was not present during the birth nor called to the scene afterward.

As you know, on June 23 we contacted you about the June 21 death of the dolphin named Scarlet and her unborn fetus at Discovery Cove. PETA has been told that Scarlet's necropsy revealed her uterus had ruptured, releasing the calf into her body cavity.

Considering the tragedy of Scarlet's failed pregnancy and ultimate death, as well as the fact that she likely suffered considerably during the week before her death, it's unconscionable that a veterinarian was not present when Dixie gave birth or, apparently, to check on her following the birth.

We respectfully request that you thoroughly investigate this latest dolphin death and, if it is determined that SeaWorld was in any way responsible, that the facility is charged as appropriate.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I can be reached at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



Lisa Wathne
Captive Exotic Animal Specialist



PETA

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TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

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