Take Action for Lolita - Letter template for Miami Dade County's designated temporary supervisor, Miami Zoo Director William Elgar

Politely reach out to Miami Dade County's designated temporary supervisor, Miami Zoo Director William Elgar

% Zoo Miami

12400 SW 152nd St

Miami, FL 33177

or FAX: 305-378-6381

Feel free to copy and paste the following, and please PERSONALIZE for a more impactful message.

Dear Mr. William Elgar,

I am writing to you with the greatest urgency to ask that you take responsibility for the health and well-being of "Tokitae/Lolita," the captive Southern Resident orca at Miami Seaquarium (MSQ), by acting upon your recent reports including life-threatening pneumonia (1) and advocating for an immediate, independent evaluation of her health.(1) This concerns me deeply on top of news in December of 3 additional marine mammal deaths at Miami Seaquarium (MSQ). (2)

These deaths could have been prevented. Quoting the USDA inspection report: "The facility's attending veterinarian's recommendations regarding the provision of adequate veterinary care and other aspects of animal care and use have been repeatedly disregarded or dismissed over the last year." (3)

Since August (2021) the stadium where Lolita is exhibited has been closed, and public is not allowed entry to assess her current condition. Among my concerns from the very troubling USDA inspection report are lack of shade, eye damage, injuries resulting from performance demands placed on an elderly animal (her estimated age is 56 years), possible ailments due to being fed poor quality fish, and feeding reduced by close to 20%. Much of this resulted from disregarding advice from the long time attending veterinarian Magdalena Rodriquez.

Please intervene by involving the veterinarians who know Lolita best including Ms. Rodriguez. I urge you to request an immediate comprehensive medical and behavioral assessment of Lolita, so that her critical needs can be met right now.

I understand that you are very busy, but if you would please kindly respond to let me know what actions you will take I would appreciate it.

Sincerely,

[Sign your name]

[address]

[contact number]

SOURCES:
1) PETA press release (02/06/2022) "Breaking: Lolita Deathly Sick at Miami Seaquarium, Reports Whistleblowers": https://bit.ly/3rw0LVp
2) Miami Herald report: New federal probe at Miami Seaquarium delays lease change 3 more animal deaths (Updated December 17 2021 7:52 PM): http://hrld.us/3spAKrU
3) NPR article on USDA inspection report: For 51 years this killer whale has lived in a tiny tank. Now her health is at risk (October 30 2021) https://n.pr/3ppJEnu