

DOLPHIN RESEARCH CENTER
58901 Overseas Highway
Grassy Key, FL 33050
www.dolphins.org
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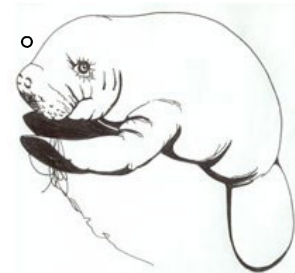
Pigeons Rescued at DRC

DRC's rescue efforts don't stop with manatees and other marine mammals! Recently, animals very close to home needed some help. Guests spotted two pigeons on the grounds that were having trouble flying. When staff from the Gift Shop investigated, they realized there wasn't anything wrong with the birds' wings. The source of the problem was monofilament fishing line binding the leg of one bird to the leg of the other! No wonder they couldn't figure out how to work together! It's probably just as well, because with that fishing line problem, they could have become stuck on something where people couldn't have helped.

The Gift Shop called Environmental Services who responded to the scene with a small net. Within minutes they were able to safely capture the birds. With patience, and a gentle touch, the team held the birds and untangled the fishing line from their legs. After determining that neither bird had suffered a debilitating injury, the team let go and our feathered friends flew up together to perch on the wires overhead, happy to be free!

By Mary Stella

Thank you for helping us!



THANK YOU!

The response to the need to purchase equipment and supplies for DRC's rescue efforts for the endangered Florida Manatee has been amazing. Thanks to you, over **\$42,000** has been donated to purchase items on our wish list.

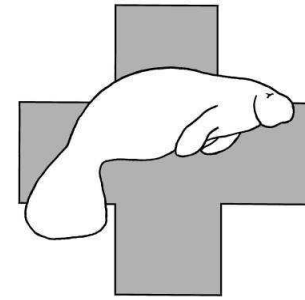
Wish List Items Needed

- Hoop Net - \$450
- Foam Pads (2) - \$520
- Waterproof Gear Bags (2) - \$200
- CPR Course (5 staff) - \$250
- Safety in Boating Course (5 staff) - \$275
- Strap fins (2 pair) - \$150.00
- Net Bucket—\$1500.00
- Protective bladders to waterproof radios (6) - \$250.00
- Rash Guard Shirts—\$1250.00

Animal rescue requires specialized equipment to not only increase our chances for success, but also to help us operate with the utmost safety for the team as well as the manatees.

We could not do these rescue missions without the generous assistance you provide. You may donate money for these specific items, or make a general donation to the Dolphin Research Center Manatee Rescue Team.

For more information, contact the Membership Department at 305-289-1121, ext. 229, or email drc-mbr@dolphins.org!



The Gray Cross

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Kiandra – Growing Up Healthy!

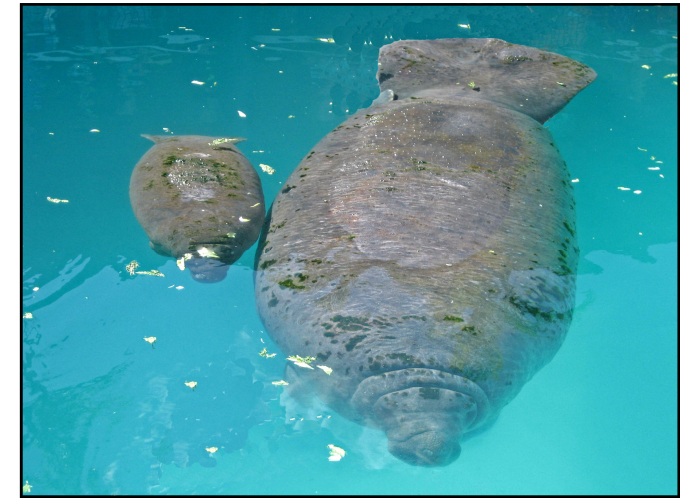
When we first met Kiandra in June 2008, she was a baby, orphaned and all alone in Key Largo. She was so small, one person could easily lift and carry her, much like you would a small dog. Almost a year later, the little girl continues to thrive and grow at Miami Seaquarium (MSQ).

Her survival story is a testament to a lot of caring from human friends and her new manatee family. From the day that she arrived, Miami Seaquarium's expert team devoted themselves to her with bottle feedings and around-the-clock monitoring of her condition. As soon as possible, they introduced her to mature female manatees in hopes that they would adopt her and nurse her.

It wasn't too long before the staff observed Kiandra, whose name means water baby, hanging around with females Phyllis and Juliette and beginning to nurse! She eventually bonded with Juliette who is a very large female!

It seems like every day, she makes even more progress. At around 11 months old as of this writing Kiandra no longer takes any bottle nourishment and appears almost completely weaned from nursing. We'll keep you posted on her progress!

By Mary Stella



Kiandra (left) looks small next to her very large adoptive mom Juliette, but she's developing normally for a yearling manatee. (Photograph courtesy of Miami Seaquarium)

Entangled Manatee Rescued!



DRC team members Brad Rose, Thomas Darapiza, and Medical Director Pat Clough stabilize Patsy while Miami Seaquarium veterinarian Dr. David Spelling works to remove embedded fishing line from Patsy's flipper.

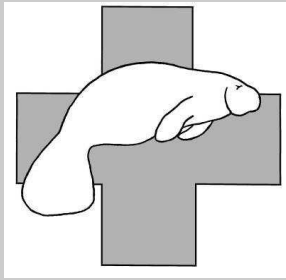
On Wednesday, April 29th, Dolphin Research Center's Manatee Rescue Team joined manatee biologists from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and staff from Miami Seaquarium to rescue an adult female manatee named Patsy. For more than two years, Patsy has suffered with her left pectoral flipper severely entangled in monofilament fishing line!

As is often the case, an injury does not necessarily make it easier for us to find and rescue a manatee. Several attempts to help Patsy had been made in the past. Either she couldn't be found, she'd stay in areas where no rescue could be staged, or she'd elude any rescue attempt.

Officials were concerned about her chances for survival. Fishing line can cut off circulation which can lead to self-amputation of the flipper and, possibly, death.

Cont'd page two





THE GRAY CROSS

Dolphin Research Center is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to a better understanding of marine mammals and the environment we share. DRC is home to a small colony of dolphins and sea lions where we conduct innovative research and offer many interactive, educational programs. Beyond our lagoons, we are the only private organization in the Florida Keys licensed to respond to manatees in distress. We are actively involved in our local community providing outreach presentations on a variety of conservation subjects.

The Gray Cross evolved from our work with stranded marine mammals. DRC's critical care program is world renowned. Our experience with dolphins, whales and sea lions is now being used to help the endangered Florida Manatee. DRC has also participated in rescue and release of endangered sea turtles.

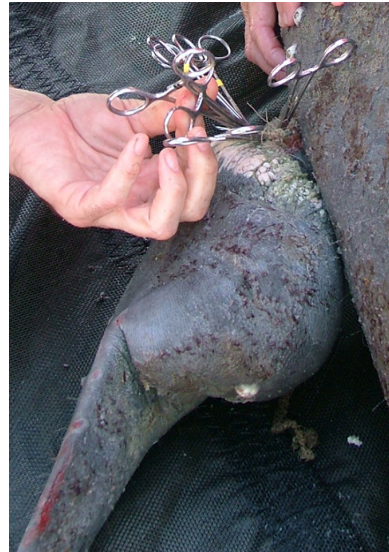
As a not-for-profit organization, contributions to DRC are welcomed and tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. For more information call (305) 289-1121 extension 229 or send an email to drc-mbr@dolphins.org.

Patsy, from page one

Luckily in April, Jim Reid, a biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, spotted Patsy and was able to place a tracking device around her tail. Rescuers were able to later find the manatee and track her until she was in an area where a rescue could be attempted.

After a single net-set, the combined team of trained personnel were able to contain Patsy and bring her aboard the boat. They transported her to land where MSQ veterinarian Dr. David Spelling inspected the injury and painstakingly removed some of the embedded line. Unfortunately, the amount of line and severity of the injury were too great to complete the treatment on scene. For Patsy's sake, she was transported to MSQ for further treatment and recovery.

Routine health checks and screening revealed a sweet surprise. Patsy is pregnant! As soon as she is medically cleared by veterinarians, she will be released back into the wild where she will hopefully deliver and raise



This picture shows the deeply embedded line and the extreme swelling the injury created in the flipper!

her baby toward a healthy life!
By Mary Stella

2008 Entanglement Statistics

Last year proved to be another tough one for manatees and their rescuers in terms of entanglement-related incidents.

In 2008, two manatees died as a result of ingesting monofilament or rope. There were also 23 rescues conducted to help manatees entangled in a variety of materials. Here is a list of the number of rescues performed per the type of entanglement:

- Five rescues—Pot and float lines
- Four rescues—Crab traps
- Four rescues—Monofilament
- Three rescues—Float lines only
- Two rescues—Rope
- One rescue—Float and line
- Four rescues—Other sources

Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Manatee Rescue, Rehabilitation & Release Database, unpublished data.

Love to Fish? Don't Leave Your Line Behind!

Monofilament fishing line **can be** recycled! Look for a bin at your neighborhood marina, bridge or tackle shop. To find a location near you, visit www.fishinglinerecycling.org!



DRC Bridge Clean-Up Successful!

At DRC we believe it isn't enough to talk the talk, you have to walk the walk. Literally! A few times a year, we gather at the Tom's Harbor Channel Bridge, mm 60.5, for an all-out clean up. In addition to bits of paper, bottles, cans, fishing tackle and loads of monofilament fishing line, you'd be surprised at some of the other trash we've collected!

Hibachis, beach chairs, a massive snarl of rope, boat motors, televisions — the list is amazing! These things create more than eyesores on the side of the road in our beautiful island chain. They're horrible for the environment and present a danger to the ecosystem and marine life.

In the middle of April, in honor of Earth Day, the DRC crew got to work again. Over two dozen staff members, volunteers, and family members gathered at the bridge. We worked hard for upwards of two hours, stuffing over a dozen large plastic garbage bags full of trash! This time, the honor of "strangest item found" goes to a folding card table. Now how did that get to the side of the bridge?



People of all ages can help clean up the environment as these DRC staff, volunteers, and family members show. The group proudly shows off the accumulated trash collected at the recent bridge clean-up at the bridges at Tom's Harbor Cut and surrounding area.

After the clean-up, we celebrated with a cook-out at Curry Hammock State Park knowing that what we collected no longer threatens the environment!

by Mary Stella



Yes! I would like to make a contribution to Dolphin Research Center's Manatee Rescue Team and their efforts to save an endangered species.

\$10 \$15 \$25 \$35 \$50 Other \$ _____

Donations can be mailed to DRC, 58901 Overseas Hwy, Grassy Key, FL 33050, made online at www.dolphins.org or faxed to (305) 743-7627. Thank you!

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For more information about the Gray Cross and Dolphin Research Center, call 305-289-1121 extension 229.

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