

were able to net Tilly into the adjacent medical pool but that pool did not have a false bottom, and they could not get the whale to release the body. They then used nets to direct Tilly into med pool #5, and were able to raise the false bottom in that pool and finally got him to release the body.

We viewed the medical records of the whale. He had recently been treated with antibiotics and antifungal drugs since about Feb 11 because his bloodwork indicated an inflammatory issue, and his white blood cell count had been somewhat elevated at that time. Blood had been drawn on Monday Feb 22, and indicated he was improving. One antibiotic had been discontinued after the Sunday treatment, but he continues to be maintained on a second antibiotic and an antifungal drug. Blood was drawn again Thursday Feb 25. The whale had appeared somewhat lethargic last week but was much improved by Sunday February 21. We observed the whale while we were on site, and he seemed bright and alert. I reviewed the bloodwork and the medical records and feel from those documents and the appearance of the whale, that whatever was wrong last week was indeed improving. The bloodwork indicated an inflammatory problem, and <sup>b6, b7c</sup> said the treatment was precautionary. This whale had a similar issue last October that was treated and fully resolved. It is unknown where the inflammation was but they had ruled out the teeth using a thermography unit, but were suspicious of the respiratory tract based on history of other whales with similar blood parameters and clinical signs.

After careful reflection I have several questions that would help me to form a final conclusion.

The announcer/trainer was key in this incident. I would like to know how much trainer experience that person had because it appears that he/she was the only person available to control the situation when it happened. I have a few questions about the moments after Tilly grabbed Dawn's hair.

What did the announcer/trainer do as soon as they saw this happen?

- Did they use the recall tone/pipes immediately to recall the whale?
- Did they go to the alarm system and how do they deploy the emergency alarm system? Do they make a phone call or hit a button?

This is important because if the alarm system requires the person in that area to make a phone call, then that person can not participate in helping the victim for the moments it takes to make the phone call. Even if they have to run back and hit a button, I think seconds make a difference in an emergency like this.

The only person available to help Dawn had to make a critical decision. If that person were an experienced trainer who knew this whale, I think they may have chosen to immediately try to control the situation by using a recall device or otherwise distract the whale. I think a less-experienced person would have opted to go to the phone/button and deploy the emergency system.

The way their system is set up now, it is impossible for the announcer/trainer to do both the emergency button/phone deployment AND provide immediate help or assistance to the victim.