

## **DOLPHINS, TRAINING ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION IN SMALL POPULATION**

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The center is located in a small town of Marmaris in Turkey we have a population of five bottlenose dolphins, three males and two females. Frosia around 17 years old, Daysi 25, Flip 30, Splash and Jonas around 13. Given that our population is small in number, we tried natural procreation with our dolphins, unsuccessful.

Having Choosing Frosia and Flip, because of the sexual mature, after having followed them by ultrasound, their was showing sexual activity and compatibility. We take the decision to start a training process with this couple of dolphins for trying an artificial insemination in a voluntary way.

The primary goal of the training team is to try any medical training with our dolphins. The problem we face, is the fact that we are unable to choose the best specimen for conditioning, due to our population size being so small. We do not have the choice to select the best dolphin for training, the necessary behaviors.

- In late 2010 Frosya female, with nine years being under human care and Flip, a male with three years being in human care, were socialized for future procreation.
- After two years without success, we, unfortunately, unfortunately lost the calf at birth.
- One year later Flip and Frosia reunited.
- We proceeded to train Flip voluntary sperm collection, for analysis, simultaneously we started, vaginal desensitisation with Frosia, for cytology.
- Analysis of sperm and vaginal tract were conducted, which turned out being normal and ready for natural conception, but without success.
- Hence, we proceeded to artificially inseminate.
- We are the first facility in turkey to perform this method.

## Training, Steps and Results.

1. Flip and Frosia socialization.
  2. Flip penis presentation and sperm sample training.
  3. Frosia is following ultrasounds.
  4. Frosia trains desensitisation and manipulation in the genital area for fresh insemination.
  5. Trained assisted insemination in small population results.
- In the presentation, we will show the process of desensitization, sperm collection, and echo sonographic training, with the completion of the insemination process.

One of the problems we faced, was both male and female had to be trained simultaneously and at the same work station, because of the inability to freeze sperm here at this facility.

The presentation is supported with training videos of echo sonography, laboratory collection and the final process, with the possibility, if connection and time permit us to show in real time by skypeing all the procedure live in Turkey.

The ultimate goal of this presentation is show the possibility that small centers, with small animal populations, have the ability to train and condition these processes without the possibility of choosing the best animals for this, and make it with the specimens which account for the population. We do not need to be a giant to do it.