

# LOLITA



Photo courtesy of Colleen Gorman

*It is simply her remarkable spirit that has kept her alive this long.*

**Name:** Lolita  
**Prior name:** Tokitae – which means ‘nice day, pretty colors’ in Chinook  
**Nickname:** affectionately known as “Toki”  
**Species:** (*Orcinus orca*) Killer Whale, also called Orca  
**Approx. size:** 22 feet long  
**Approx. wt:** 6,000 lbs  
**Approx. DOB:** 1966  
**Location:** Miami Seaquarium (MSQ), Miami, FL, a subsidiary of Wometco, a privately held company.

**Family:** Lolita’s birthright is the L25 matriline of the “L” pod of the Southern Resident orca community in the Pacific Northwest. Lolita’s mother is believed to be L25, Ocean Sun, approx. age 82, who still resides with Lolita’s family swimming freely in the open waters where Lolita was captured. Lolita continues to use the calls that only her family, the L25 subpod, uses. In 2005 the Southern Resident orcas were listed as an endangered species. More on Lolita’s Life before Capture: <http://www.orcanetwork.org/captivity/beforecapture.html>

**Captured:** August 8, 1970 in Penn Cove, Whidbey Island, Washington State. Lolita is the last surviving orca of 45 members of the Southern Resident community that were captured and delivered for display in marine parks between 1965 and 1973. At least 13 members of her family were killed during the brutal captures. More on Lolita’s Capture: <http://www.orcanetwork.org/captivity/lolitacapture.html>



Photo courtesy of Shelby Proie

**Lolita's Life at Miami Seaquarium:** Lolita arrived at Miami Seaquarium on September 24, 1970. She was kept several hundred feet from her future tank-mate orca Hugo until June 2, 1971. During that time they called to one another incessantly across the park. They performed together for 9 years until Hugo's death, 30 years ago in 1980, after repeatedly bashing his head into the walls and windows of the pool, in what many believe to be an act of suicide after 12 years in captivity. Lolita has been alone (aside from a few dolphins) for 30 years, performing two shows a day for tourists. Since 1970 Lolita has resided in what is the smallest and oldest orca tank in North America. The tank is merely one-and-a-half-times her size, has garnered numerous safety violations, and does not meet US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Regulations. Now a young adult at about 43 years old, Lolita has been a "captive" entertainer for 40 years. Only Corky at Sea World in San Diego, captured in 1969, has been in captivity longer.

Lolita's Life Today: <http://www.orcanetwork.org/captivity/lolitatoday.html>

**Lolita's captivity continues without enforcement of numerous Animal Welfare Act Regulation Violations:**

Perimeter Fence & Protection from Abuse and Harassment: Lolita's pool does not meet the requirements to keep animals and unauthorized people out nor does it provide protection from abuse and harassment by the public.

Protection from Weather and Direct Sunlight: Lolita is not afforded protection from the weather or from direct sunlight to benefit her health and well-being.

Space Requirements for Orca: The most egregious violation which has not been enforced is that of Lolita's pool size, which measures 3.4 feet less than the required tank width for a marine mammal of her size.

Housing with Compatible Animals: Lolita has not been in the company of another orca since 1980. This highly social animal is subjected to this solitude in the unfounded belief that her dolphin tank-mates are an acceptable replacement for a member of her own species. Only a related family member would be appropriate as Lolita's companion.

Emergency Contingency Plans: The wellbeing of Lolita and the other marine mammals at MSQ are now being threatened by the Gulf oil spill and MSQ and APHIS have neglected to enforce Emergency Contingency Plan requirements, including evacuation plans.

Pool Environment Enhancements: Non-food objects are utilized in Lolita's pool for stimulation which may subject her to injury through ingestion.

Contact the Eastern Regional Director of the USDA - APHIS Animal Care, to correct these violations.

Betty Goldentyer, D.V.M.  
Eastern Regional Director  
USDA - APHIS Animal Care  
920 Main Campus Drive-Suite 200  
Raleigh, NC 27606  
(919)855-7100 [Office]  
(919)855-7123 [Fax]  
[betty.j.goldentyer@usda.gov](mailto:betty.j.goldentyer@usda.gov)

There are many wonderful people and organizations willing to work with the Miami Seaquarium, and they are ready, willing and waiting to move forward with a rehabilitation, retirement and relocation plan.

Details of her retirement plan can be found here: [www.orcanetwork.org/captivity/2007proposalraft.html](http://www.orcanetwork.org/captivity/2007proposalraft.html)

**Campaign to retire Lolita:** Orca Network, Greenbank WA 98253, (360) 678-3451  
or toll-free at (866) ORCANET (672-2638) [www.OrcaNetwork.org](http://www.OrcaNetwork.org) or email [info@OrcaNetwork.org](mailto:info@OrcaNetwork.org) or  
visit: [www.SaveLolita.com](http://www.SaveLolita.com)