



CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM

PRESS RELEASE

Clearwater Marine Aquarium Rescues Three Otter Kits

- Three North American River Otter kits admitted into Clearwater Marine Aquarium's Critical Care Facility

Clearwater, FL (March 17, 2015) – Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) rescued three North American river otter kits over the last few days, all approximately three months of age. The three, named Audi, Bentley, and Camino, suffered from low blood glucose levels and needed medical attention.

Each kit weighed three to four pounds and found without their mothers. Otters may stay with their mothers for up to one year, learning necessary survival skills and learning to swim and hunt.

Audi and Bentley were found Friday afternoon, March 13, in a Dunedin apartment parking lot, appearing unresponsive. Staff arrived on scene, provided fluids, and brought the kits to CMA for overnight monitoring and care.

Camino was discovered Sunday evening, March 15, water logged and shivering underneath a bridge in Clearwater. After safely securing him, glucose and other necessary fluids were administered on location. He was then transported to CMA's Critical Care Facility for overnight monitoring and care, including increasing the kit's body temperature to normal range.

Clearwater Marine Aquarium provided round the clock care for all three kits, which included regular feedings and monitoring. Upon being stabilized, all three were transported to the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) in Sanibel, Florida. Together, this litter will undergo rehabilitation for 6-9 months prior to release into the wild.

When encountering young river otter kits, the public is advised to view from afar and to not interact with the animal. Often times, an otter mother will leave her kit for a period of time to forage. Furthermore, otters are potential carriers for rabies. If the animal seems distressed, immediately contact Clearwater Marine Aquarium's Emergency Stranding Hotline at 727-441-1790 Ext. 234.

###

Media Contact: Amy Binder, Clearwater Marine Aquarium, abinder@cmaquarium.org, O: 727.441.1790 x242

About Clearwater Marine Aquarium:

Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working marine rescue center dedicated to inspiring the human spirit through leadership in education, research, rescue, rehabilitation and release. CMA is home to rescue dolphins, sea turtles, river otters, stingrays, nurse sharks and more. Winter, the dolphin's story of survival after injury that caused her to lose her tail, has impacted millions of people around the world. A major motion picture, *Dolphin Tale*, highlighted her life story in 2011. The sequel, *Dolphin Tale 2*, was released in September 2014 and features the incredible story of Hope, a young resident dolphin of CMA. The mission and potential to change people's lives differentiates Clearwater Marine Aquarium from any other aquarium in the world.

WE BELIEVE in preserving our marine life and environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in education, research, rescue, rehabilitation, and release.

249 Windward Passage | Clearwater, FL 33767 | 727.441.1790 | 727.445.1139 f | SeeWinter.com

A Florida non-profit 501(c)(3) organization