



Miami Seaquarium Staff, Past and Present, Share Personal Messages From Time Spent with Luna, the 20-year-old Bottlenose Dolphin with Scoliosis that Recently Passed Away After a Life of Inspiring Those Around Her

Editor's Note:

Management of the Miami Seaquarium transferred to The Dolphin Company in March of 2022. While current management was not present for most of Luna's life, both team members and guests were awed by Luna's heart and strength.

Photos shared by Luna's Care Team:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tjWFZBfUDNC0JyrSW9wJvrhgZSC3BZkS?usp=sharing>

Miami FL, August 4, 2023

A remarkable dolphin named Luna graced the Miami Seaquarium with immeasurable joy and inspiration. Luna had scoliosis, a curvature of the spine that clearly set her apart, physically, from other dolphins. Despite her disability, Luna greeted each day as if she was no different from her peers. The care provided to Luna was not just professional, it was personal, driven by profound love and respect.

Messages from Luna's Care Team:

Delaney Popella, one of Luna's former trainers

"Luna stole the hearts of everyone she met, inspiring guests and trainers alike," said Delaney Popella, one of Luna's former trainers. "Although she was physically limited, she knew no bounds and impressed me every day with her unmatched resilience and intelligence. She will live on forever in the hearts of those she touched."

Kylie Taylor, one of Luna's former trainers

"Luna was one of the most intelligent animals I've ever had the pleasure to know," said Kylie Tyler, one of Luna's former trainers. "Despite her physical limitations, she was always high energy and motivated for her interactions with guests and trainers, which inspired everyone she met."

Alexis Kaladi, one of Luna's current/recent trainers

"Luna was full of personality and one of my favorite animals to introduce to our guests," said Alexis Kaladi, one of Luna's recent trainers. "She could do everything all our other animals can, but just in her own special way. What I hope people learn from Luna's story is that no matter what curves life throws at you, you can not only overcome them, but you can thrive. Because Luna did just that; she thrived."





Megan Ford, one of Luna's current/recent trainers

"I worked with Luna for over three years and was incredibly humbled by her," said Megan Ford, one of Luna's recent trainers. "She was so strong willed and stubborn but developing a relationship with her made you feel like you earned it; it made you feel special."

Dr. Roberto S. Okrucky, corporate consulting veterinarian

"In more than 35 years working with marine mammals and among more than 500 dolphins that, at some time, I had under my care as head of the vet team of The Dolphin Company for more than 20 years, I had never witnessed a case like Luna," said Dr. Roberto S. Okrucky, corporate consulting veterinarian.

"The scoliosis development in the spinal cord was to such an extent that, medically speaking, it is nearly impossible to explain how she survived with such disability as it progressed every day, for more than 15 years that she lived with this condition.

This is a true and living example of how humans devoted to the professional care for animals in habitats or parks like Miami Seaquarium gave Luna an opportunity to live a life surrounded by love and attention."

Miami Seaquarium leadership

"Luna's journey, and story, would not have been possible without the incredible dedication and expertise of the veterinary team. Vets and trainers worked side by side every day to develop a tailored care plan to address her unique needs and ensure her comfort, even as her disease progressed through the years."

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About Miami Seaquarium:

Miami Seaquarium, located in beautiful Key Biscayne in Miami, Florida, has been educating and entertaining families since 1955, and became a member of THE DOLPHIN COMPANY in 2022. Since then and as a leading marine conservation institute, more than 50% of their benefits are used for the rescue, conservation and protection of endangered species and their ocean habitat. For more information, please visit miamiseaquarium.com or the Dolphin Company at thedolphinco.com and connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

