



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 21, 2010

WILD KILLER WHALE ADOPTION PROGRAM CONFIRMS HEALTHY SIGHTING OF ORPHANED WHALE SPRINGER

Vancouver, B.C. – Biologists on a research trip, funded by the B.C. Wild Killer Whale Adoption Program, recently photographed the killer whale known as Springer (A73) north of Vancouver Island. She appeared to be in excellent health and was swimming closely with members of her pod.

Over eight years have passed since Springer was discovered off the Seattle waterfront, orphaned and starving. She quickly became a darling of the international news media, and the story of her remarkable capture, rehabilitation, transport home to British Columbia and release made history. Much of the basic research that made it possible to identify and save Springer was funded by the B.C. Wild Killer Whale Adoption Program at the Vancouver Aquarium, which has supported ground-breaking killer whale research for 18 years. Springer turned 10 years old this year and is now a poster child for the resiliency of her species and the power of people working together for a good cause.

Vancouver Aquarium's Killer Whale Adoption Program helps to protect and support killer whales and their habitat. You can help whales like Springer by adopting a wild killer whale – it's easy to do; just follow these steps:

- **CHOOSE A WHALE** – You can choose a northern resident, southern resident or transient killer whale. All whales have been identified with a scientific number, adoption name, gender and year of birth.
- **SELECT AN ADOPTION PACKAGE** – The basic adoption package includes an adoption certificate, ID photo and biography of your adopted whale, a CD featuring the sounds of B.C.'s killer whales, annual membership newsletter and membership for one year where you will be able to receive updates on your adopted whale.
- **ADOPT NOW** – By adopting a whale you are helping researchers learn more about these amazing animals, their habitats and ways which we can help them stay safe.
- **SHARE WITH OTHERS** – Give your family and friends the amazing gift of adopting a killer whale. This gift will make a great holiday present and helps protect the future of wild killer whales.

To adopt a killer whale or learn more information about the B.C. Wild Killer Whale Adoption Program, visit netcommunity.vanaqua.org/kwap/adopt

About the B.C. Wild Killer Whale Adoption Program (KWAP)

The B.C. Wild Killer Whale Adoption Program, launched in 1992 by the Vancouver Aquarium, raises funds to support ground-breaking research on wild killer whales – research that is proving essential in the effort to protect these magnificent animals and their habitat. By adopting a wild killer whale, you'll become a key partner in the killer whale research effort. Learn more at netcommunity.vanaqua.org/KWAP

About Vancouver Aquarium

The Vancouver Aquarium is a global leader in connecting people to our natural world, and a self-supporting, non-profit association dedicated to effecting the conservation of aquatic life through display and interpretation, education, research, and direct action. Learn more at www.vanaqua.org.

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