

# TOTALLY INSANE PETA Offers to Buy Sea World and Set the Animals Free

By Capt. Ron Blago  
Water LIFE Senior Staff

Buried behind the headlines of the Olympics and the presidential campaigns was a press release indicating that PETA (people for the ethical treatment of animals) has been at it again. It seems they have made an offer to buy Sea World. To give you some background information- Sea World is currently owned by Anheuser-Busch (this Bud's for you folks) and is in the process of being taken over by InBev a Belgium beer company, for a cool \$50 billion dollars. PETA figures the new owners might want to get out of the tourist entertainment business and concentrate solely on brewing beer; and may be willing to sell off one or all of the Sea World's.

PETA has sent a letter to the president of InBev stating that they have an anonymous donor who is willing to put up enough money to buy at least one of the three Sea World's.

PETA has always had a reputation for holding great publicity stunts. Everyone remembers the throwing of blood on people who were wearing mink stoles and breaking into medical labs and releasing research animals and my personal favorite; naked models and actresses walking down the street protesting animal fur. I also remember PETA showing up at a local kid's fishing tournament and carrying signs that said, "Hooks Hurt" and "Fish have

Feeling Too." But PETA also has a darker side.

In 2005, two PETA employees were arrested while dumping the bodies of 31 dead animals in a public dumpster in North Carolina. It seems that PETA had an arrangement with the Virginia humane society to take puppies and kittens off their hands and find good homes for them. It appears that wasn't as easy as PETA thought. It turns out that 75-percent of all the animals they picked up, they euthanized in a few days. The State of Virginia, where PETA has their headquarters, estimated that PETA exterminated over 10,000 animals between 1998 and 2003. Now that my be in poor taste for an animal rights group, but it's not illegal. What got them in trouble was how they disposed of the bodies. I guess PETA figured it would not be good publicity to stack up a pile of dead puppies on the curb and wait for trash day; so they had their employees load the carcasses into the company van, and go across the state line to North Carolina and start dropping them off in trash cans along the way. Now that's their idea of 'ethical.'

Anheuser-Busch estimates that their entertainment unit is worth about \$5 billion which is a pretty steep price tag for an organization like PETA that only brings in an average of \$20 million a year in donations. Maybe there really is an anonymous



donor who is willing to put up that type of money or perhaps it was some guy they found in the tasting room at the local Bud brewery who, after 12 free Michelob's, promised to give them anything they wanted.

Publicity stunt or not, some of the PETA followers are taking this seriously. Debbie Leahy, a PETA Director said "This could be the end of the injustice at Sea World, where orca's and other dolphins are imprisoned in tiny tanks and forced to do silly tricks for dumb people."

PETA's plan for Sea World is to re-train these sea creatures so

that they can be released back into the wild. I'm sure that after a lifetime of free food and the best medical care available, they can hardly wait to go out and make it on their own in the wild - kind of like Paris Hilton being forced to go out and get a job. I guess PETA doesn't realize that for a long time now people have been going out and rescuing injured sea creatures and bringing them to marine sanctuaries to be healed - and the name of this place is - duahhh -Sea World.

PETA plans to get rid of all the exhibits and replace them with "virtual displays" kind of

like video games. I'm sure it will be just like being right there when Shamu jumps up and splashes everyone in the front row. I'm so excited about that prospect, I just might send PETA a virtual donation.

Whether this is a hoax or not only time will tell, but if PETA does take over Sea World and you take the family there for some virtual fun, remember, when you stop for lunch, think about those poor puppies in Virginia before you order your Flipper Burgers or Manatee Mac Nuggets. I wonder if Budweiser would give me a good deal on a used Clydesdale.

**WARNING ! WARNING!**

**PREPARE TO BE APPROACHED ON THE WATER!**

This is from a listing of new grants available to state agencies: "The Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is establishing a new initiative called the Marine Resource Conservation Partnership (MRCP). The MRCP seeks to improve marine resource protection by implementing non-regulatory saltwater recreational outreach and education programs. The FWC will purchase *two boats for use by volunteers to make non-threatening, one-to-one contact with boaters to promote boating safety, resource conservation and information on related subjects.* If successful, the program will be expanded to other coastal counties."

**MIAMI KOTA**  
SALES - SERVICE - INSTALLATION

**POWER-POLE**  
MARINE ELECTRIC SYSTEMS

**J&C**  
INC.

**DRYDOCK MARINE**

OUTBOARD PERFORMANCE SERVICE CENTER

PUNTA GORDA, FL  
941-639-3725

**Thunder MARINE**  
of Englewood

New, Used, and Brokered Boats  
Listings wanted

IFORCE WIND  
SALVATION  
MIDDLE POWER

Shane Wagoner

[www.thundermarine.com](http://www.thundermarine.com) 941-681-3400 941-769-0964