

Dean Bernal – The Warden of JoJo

A report on Dean Bernal and the JoJo Project's Activities which contribute to JoJo's physical, legal, and moral protection as a National Treasure of the British West Indies, Turks and Caicos Islands



Primary Responsibilities:

- Document and maintain the health and welfare of JoJo the Dolphin and the local cetacean population.
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- Further develop and maintain for JoJo and the JoJo Project the following:
 - *Legal Protection for JoJo and Cetacean Population*
 - *Medical attention and emergency network for JoJo and Cetaceans*
 - *JoJo and Cetacean Research*
 - *Educational needs*



Responsibilities Defined & Fulfilled

- 1- **Legal Protection:** Attended the Turks and Caicos Marine Mammal meetings and advised the Turks and Caicos on current affairs with regard to the needs of JoJo and cetaceans. Directly advised the Minister of Natural Resources about all issues regarding JoJo and cetaceans. Policed and monitored JoJo and prevented possible harassment, torture, or injury to the dolphin. Policed access permits and made available for official appointments by the Ministry of Natural Resources.
- 2- **Medical Attention, Health, and Welfare of JoJo:** Responded during injury to JoJo and reported strandings of cetaceans. Developed an emergency plan in the case of JoJo or another cetacean's life was in danger. Conducted intermittent and scheduled checks for medical presentations. Built trust for handling and general health checks for JoJo.

- 3- **JoJo Research and Cetacean Data Collection:** Studied territorial cetaceans that have an effect on JoJo. Used local community to document sightings, either by attending sightings or making use of radio communications, data sheets and data bank. Generated computer reports JoJo's health. Maintained daily records, reports and updates on JoJo and local dolphin populations, consisting in part of field observations and interactions with JoJo.
- 4- **Educational needs:** The appointed JoJo warden provided an educational and protective status for JoJo as unique wildlife and the country's National Treasure. Maintained availability for correspondence related to JoJo, as well as slide show presentations, and public speaking engagements for educational purposes. Made visitations to educational programs and seminars, encompassing the areas of research, medical, and community affairs, for the improvement of the JoJo Project and the welfare of JoJo, specifically. Attended community and private sector meetings to maintain close contact with the local community who may frequently come into contact with JoJo. Created, distributed, and promoted JoJo and cetacean educational materials. Obtained and organized materials for a JoJo Library and Archive. Searched for resources and Educational Programs to help the JoJo Project's Educational Goals.

Additional Project Responsibilities:

- Maintained and transported scuba equipment, video cameras, photography equipment, research equipment, boats and materials assigned for JoJo warden duties.
- Maintained inventory and security of equipment assigned for JoJo warden use.
- Completed Special JoJo warden assignments and projects requested by the Ministry of Natural Resources.
- Established the guidelines for a position and responsibilities for an apprentice *JoJo* warden and cetacean warden program.
- Established a program for a Turks & Caicos youth representative for JoJo the Dolphin.
- Advised local and international Marine Mammal programs, concerning cetacean welfare and conservation.

