

NEWS RELEASE

717 General Booth Blvd. Virginia Beach, VA



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Kristina Scott | KScott@VirginiaAquarium.com

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Beloved Aquarium Harbor Seal Monty Passed Away

Virginia Beach, VA - The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center's harbor seal named Monty passed away unexpectedly during a diagnostic procedure yesterday. The Virginia Aquarium team has heavy hearts as they share this news and grieve this significant loss.

Monty was sedated for x-rays and ultrasound as part of a gastro-intestinal assessment. The veterinary team will be conducting a necropsy for further investigation.

Born in the spring of 2020, Monty was rescued and rehabilitated three times by the National Marine Life Center in Buzzards Bay, MA before being deemed non-releasable. He moved to the Virginia Aquarium in June 2021 and lived with Rudder, Hector and Javier on exhibit.

Monty's was known for high energy behaviors and activities including jumping high out of the water and following guests around the exhibit.

The Virginia Aquarium appreciates the community's thoughts and support during this difficult time. Monty was well-loved by staff and was an incredible ambassador, engaging with guests as they arrived at the Aquarium. He will be greatly missed by all.

[Images of Monty](#), courtesy of the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center.

[Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center](#)

The [Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center's](#) mission is to connect people to the marine environment, inspiring a more sustainable future. The Aquarium aspires to be a driver in conservation, education, tourism, and sustainability, leading the charge to save wildlife and their ecosystems. Owned by the City of Virginia Beach, the Aquarium operates as a city department in partnership with the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center Foundation. The Aquarium is proud to be an accredited member of

the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums, and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

The [Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center Foundation](#), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, supports the work of the Virginia Aquarium. The Foundation procures and maintains the Aquarium's exhibits, including the animals and habitats. It is also responsible for annual and capital fundraising, administration and funding for the Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Program, conservation and scientific research efforts, and the Aquarium's mission-related education programs. You can be a part of our mission by making a [tax-deductible donation](#) to support our programming.

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