Keiko the Killer Whale

Keiko the whale was captured near Iceland and brought to California. He became a famous performer who did tricks at a theme park. He even starred in a movie! Keiko is an Orca whale. Orcas are called killer whales because they feed on seals.

Keiko was not healthy at the theme park. He was thin and his skin was covered with sores. His body was too big for the tank he lived in. The water was not cold enough for him to be comfortable. He couldn’t get enough exercise to be healthy. He was not a happy whale.

Keiko was taken to the Oregon Coast Aquarium to get healthy and eventually be released back into the wild. At the aquarium, he ate the kind of fish he would have caught himself in the ocean. He lived in a very large tank full of cool ocean water. Trainers took care of him and helped him remember what it was like to be wild again.

Keiko ate well and exercised every day. He gained about two tons and got healthy again. When he was well he was moved back to his new home in the ocean. He was so big he had to be flown in a special plane with a pool that took up the entire inside of the plane.

Keiko’s new home is in a pen in the ocean, not a tank. Trainers are helping him learn to catch his own fish. Someday they hope he will be released into the wild again. Maybe he will find his original family of Orcas.

Retell: 94% accuracy