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To whom it may concern

During recent years, the Institute of Biology, Freie Universitaet Berlin, Germany, has been collaborating with Loro Parque and the Loro Parque Fundación in non-invasive research involving cetaceans, with the ultimate aim to contribute to their conservation.

To prepare this we escorted the transfer of the four Orcas as independent researchers. Also, we studied their well-being during the first years in Tenerife. Thereby, we could document how the mammals developed their own dialect suggesting that they had formed their own intact society. Finally we experienced that Loro Parque provides the best facilities world-wide for research about animal behaviours.

Further specific examples of our collaboration are the projects:

- Relationships between vocalizations of *Orcinus orca* and specific contexts: clues from analyses of changes in group-repertoire composition and performance
- 'Virtual window' experiment: the possible effects of materials that could provide a dramatically reduced reflection of ultrasonic signals of *Orcinus orca*.
- Do killer whales plan their action patterns? An inquiry into the rules of orca decision making, carried out with special respect to human-orca-relationships.

I can confirm that essential elements of this collaboration have been the financial support provided by the Loro Parque Fundación, and that Loro Parque has always freely offered its installations and animals for research to be conducted. The animals have always been treated ethically, and the open collaboration has played an important part in the success of the research.

Yours faithfully,



(Prof. Dr. D. Todt)