

Rescued Irrawaddy dolphin calf dies despite weeks of care

September 7 2022, by TASSANEE VEJPONGSA



Volunteer Tosapol Prayoonsuk feeds a baby dolphin nicknamed Paradon with milk at the Marine and Coastal Resources Research and Development Center in Rayong province in eastern Thailand, Friday, Aug. 26, 2022. Officials who were providing emergency care for the animal said Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022, the dolphin has died despite all their efforts. Credit: AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit, File

An Irrawaddy [dolphin calf](#) who was rescued and nursed day and night for weeks by veterinarians and volunteers after his rescue from a tidal pool on Thailand's shore has died despite all their efforts, officials who were providing emergency care for the animal said Wednesday.

The baby was nicknamed Paradon, roughly translated as "brotherly burden," when he was found by fishermen on July 22, and dozens of veterinarians and volunteers helped care for him at Thailand's Marine and Coastal Resources Research and Development Center in Rayong in the Gulf of Thailand.

"We were quite shocked because it happened so fast. Paradon had made much improvement since we have found him," said Oranee Jongkolpath, a veterinarian at the center.

"He started to get sick again on Aug. 31, having difficulty breathing and suffering from diarrhea. He deteriorated so quickly, and he died that night."

Oranee, together with her colleagues and volunteers, had been providing 24-hour watch over the injured calf.

The team looking after Paradon said an initial examination found infection in his lungs, but is waiting for full laboratory results to determine the exact cause of death.

"While we can't save Paradon's life, we have learned a lot from it. Not many people have cared for Irrawaddy dolphins, let alone a calf. Everything we have done in a month of caring for him are all lessons learned for us, from its behavior, its food intake, and even its sickness," Oranee said.



A baby dolphin nicknamed Paradon swims at the Marine and Coastal Resources Research and Development Center in Rayong province in eastern Thailand, Friday, Aug. 26, 2022. Officials who were providing emergency care for the animal said Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022, the dolphin has died despite all their efforts. Credit: AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit, File

Irrawaddy dolphins, considered a vulnerable species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, are found in the shallow coastal waters of South and Southeast Asia and in three rivers in Myanmar, Cambodia and Indonesia. Their survival is threatened by habitat loss, pollution and fishing, when dolphins are caught unintentionally with other species.

Officials from the marine research center believe around 400 Irrawaddy

dolphins remain along the country's eastern coast bordering Cambodia.

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