

Recording No. 3 – Carlota – English:

Two 12-year-old beluga whales that spent years in captivity entertaining humans at an aquarium in Shanghai, China, have found freedom at an open water sanctuary in Iceland.

The four-metre-long whales, which each weigh about 900kg, were flown 6,000 miles for over 30 hours in a 747-aircraft fitted with purpose-built containers from Changfeng Ocean World to a sanctuary in a bay on Iceland's Heimaey Island.

The whales, both females and previously known as Little Grey and Little White, will enjoy open water for the first time since they left a Russian whale research centre in 2011.

Andy Bool, head of the charity Sea Life Trust, said: "We're delighted that they are safely in their sea sanctuary care pools." Conservationists hope the sanctuary will be a model for rehoming 3,000 whales and dolphins currently housed in traditional captive facilities or performing in shows.