**Media:** For more information, contact SeaWorld/Aquatica Public Relations at (619) 226-3929.



**AQUATICA SEAWORLD’S WATERPARK**

**ANIMAL FACT SHEET**

A variety of exotic animals at AquaticaSeaWorld’s Waterpark® in San Diego round out the park’s experience as only SeaWorld can. Vibrant Caribbean flamingos and four species of freshwater turtles call the waterpark home:

**Caribbean Flamingos** with a maximum wingspan of 4 feet 9 inches reside in a habitat alongside the 1,250-foot-long lazy river, Loggerhead Lane. The birds weigh between 4 and 6½ pounds; females get as tall as 5 feet high; males as tall as 6 feet. In the wild, these birds are found in the Caribbean, northern coast of South America, and Galápagos Islands. Flamingos live in tropical and subtropical saltwater lakes or estuarine lagoons. They eat larval and pupal forms of flies, brine shrimp and algae. Here are some fun facts:

* Gray at hatching, flamingos attain their pink plumage by age 3
* The bird’s beautiful pink color comes from the carotenoid pigments in their food
* The species tip their heads into the water and filter feed with their bills upside-down when feeding
* More than a dozen Caribbean flamingos live at Aquatica San Diego
* To learn more visit ***www.SeaWorld.org***

**Freshwater Turtles** with shells 7 to 12 inches in diameter reside in a habitat between Big Surf Shores and the Retail/Culinary plaza. In addition to the red-eared slider turtle species, which make up the vast majority of the turtles at Aquatica San Diego, there are also yellow-bellied sliders; Western Pacific pond turtles; and Mississippi map turtles.

* In the wild, red-eared sliders are found from Illinois to the Gulf of Mexico and from the East Coast to western Texas. They live in calm freshwater habitats such as ponds, marshes, creeks or lakes. The reptiles eat small fishes and frogs, tadpoles, crawfish, aquatic insects and aquatic plants. Red-eared sliders are popular pets. Owners who cannot properly care for them often “release” them into non-native areas, where they compete with and prey on local species. When considering a turtle for a pet, it is best to make sure that you can provide the proper home and care for these delicate reptiles. To learn more visit ***www.SeaWorld.org.***

For general park information about Aquatica, visit call (800) 257-4268 or visit [***www.AquaticaSanDiego.com***](http://www.AquaticaSanDiego.com)***.***

**—Aquatica—**