On March 21, 2013, London Air Services (LAS) and the Vancouver Aquarium left Richmond B.C. to bring a rescued sea otter from Alaska back to its new home at the Vancouver Aquarium.

Left: Darryl Shaw, LAS Client Services Manager, and Captain Vince Whalley are testing and loading the equipment to assist.
Captain Vince Whalley and Steven Matsushita test the water tanks for the trip with the sea otter.
The Bombardier Lear 45 XR flies up to 51000 feet high at 518 mph.
The Lear 45 XR winglets improve fuel efficiency.

The 45 XR delta wings provide a smooth, comfortable flight.
The Lear 45 XR carries eight passengers in comfortable leather seats. To make room for the special sea otter trip, three seats have been removed with special tie downs installed to hold the sea otter’s travel cage.
Doctor John Nightingale, President and C.E.O. of Vancouver Aquarium looking forward to boarding the Lear 45 XR for this very special journey.

www.vanaqua.org
Captain Vince Whalley and Darryl Shaw, LAS Client Services Manager, look forward to greeting the very special passenger.
Dr. Martin Haulena, Kristyn Plancarte, Dr. John Nightingale, President and C.E.O. of Vancouver Aquarium, and Brian Sheehan of the Vancouver Aquarium team.
First Officer Steven Matsushita

Captain Vince Whalley

Dr. John Nightingale anxiously looking forward to the sea otter’s arrival.

Shutting the cabin door to start the journey.
Dr. Martin Haulena and Dr. John Nightingale in the Lear 45 XR cabin.

Hard at work reviewing the sea otter project details.
We have arrived in Alaska.
The ice flows remind one how cold Alaska still is in March.
Getting ready to descend to Anchorage.
The Fuel Business Operator (FBO) in Anchorage staff look after the LAS crew and the Vancouver Aquarium team.
The Alaska SeaLife Marine Rescue truck arrives with the sea otter.

Our sea otter is anxious to get her special flight in the air.
The young female sea otter calmly examines her surroundings
The special transportation crate allows for cooling, cleaning of surroundings and a comfortable ride for this flight.
Dr. John Nightingale prepares a documentary video using his trusty Nikon DSLR.

Gently we move the sea otter into the next step of her journey.
Paula Lash from the Vancouver Aquarium and Captain Vince Whalley discuss our unique passenger’s needs and expectations.

The ice and snow of Anchorage.
She wants to fly.
A girl needs to eat, and eat well. When you are a sea otter - the very best of sea food.

Ready to go.
The team gently moves our passenger.
The Lear 45 XR on the Anchorage Alaska tarmac waiting for the sea otter.

The next part of the journey begins.
The Learjet 45 XR Honeywell engines provide an awesome 7000 pounds of thrust to push the aircraft efficiently and effectively.
The Alaska SeaLife Center provides care for sick and injured marine animals. Nursing them back to survival.

www.alaskasealife.org
Loading our special cargo into the Lear 45 XR.
Dr. John Nightingale, Brett Long (Husbandry Director and Mammal Curator), Dr. Carrie Goertz (Veterinarian, Alaska SeaLife Center) and Dr. Martin Haulena representing the Vancouver Aquarium and the Alaska SeaLife Center.
All Aboard !
The Lear 45 XR “Renaissance Spirit”. A plane with the name meaning rebirth and yearning for knowledge is appropriate for this special journey.
Our female sea otter is in the plane, happy and content.
Paula Lash, who helped nurse our famous sea otter back to health in the Alaska SeaLife Center, and her special passenger now flying towards Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
London Air food service is a delight to our sea otter friend.
The London Air Lear 45 XR soaring above the icy Alaska waters.
Carefully unloading our new sea otter upon arrival in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada airport. (YVR)
The last part of the 2130 km journey to her new Vancouver Aquarium home.
Mission successful. Garth Ryan (Assistant Director of Maintenance for London Air Services) retrieves the sea otter “water” system from the Lear 45 XR.
I’m home. I now have a name, “KATMAI”. A National Park in southwest Alaska and a mountain also share this special name that was selected jointly by the school children of Alaska, USA and British Columbia, Canada.
Katmai admires her reflection.

Katmai is a girl that enjoys life!
A wave of thanks from Katmai to all those who helped save her life.
The saving of scarce animal life is a special trust for the Human Race. This book is dedicated to all those that took the time, attention and caring to save Katmai.

Wynne is an avid landscape and animal photographer as well as nature enthusiast, having spent decades photographing the world’s animal and scenery treasures. His trusty Nikon D800E cameras are his constant companion as he captures these moments. When Wynne is not behind the camera he serves as President/C.E.O. of London Air Services, London Drugs and Sonora Resorts. As you can see from the images in this book, “KATMAI” enjoys being the center of attention.

All Photos by Wynne Powell
Sea Otter Rescue