Volunteering with the Oiled Wildlife Care Network

Oiled Wildlife Care Network
Wildlife Health Center
UC Davis
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Overview

- What is the Oiled Wildlife Care Network
- OWCN program
- Volunteer program
- Volunteer use in spills

Oiled Wildlife Care Network

- Created in 1994
  - "Wildlife response arm" of CDGF-OSPR
  - 1994-1997 OSPR; 1997 on WHC at UC Davis

OWCN

- Mission
  - Best achievable capture and care of oiled wildlife
  - Four “R’s”
    - Research
    - Reaching Out
    - Readiness
    - Response

Oiled Wildlife Care Network

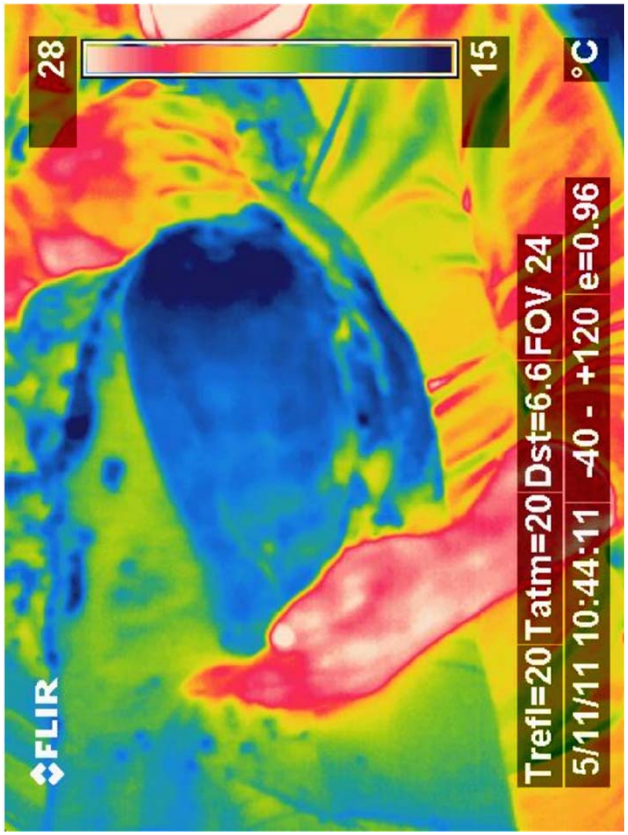
UC Davis Wildlife Health Center

Research: Grants

- Purpose
  - Better understand effects
  - How best to care for wildlife
  - Post-release survival
- $250,000
- Success
  - Over 140 projects funded since 1996
  - Three post-release projects since 1997

Research: In house

- Soft sided pens
- Nutrition & fluids
- Effects of being housed in fresh water
- Infrared cameras to monitor waterproofing
- Testing satellite transmitters



Picture by Hannah Nevins

Reaching Out

Reaching Out

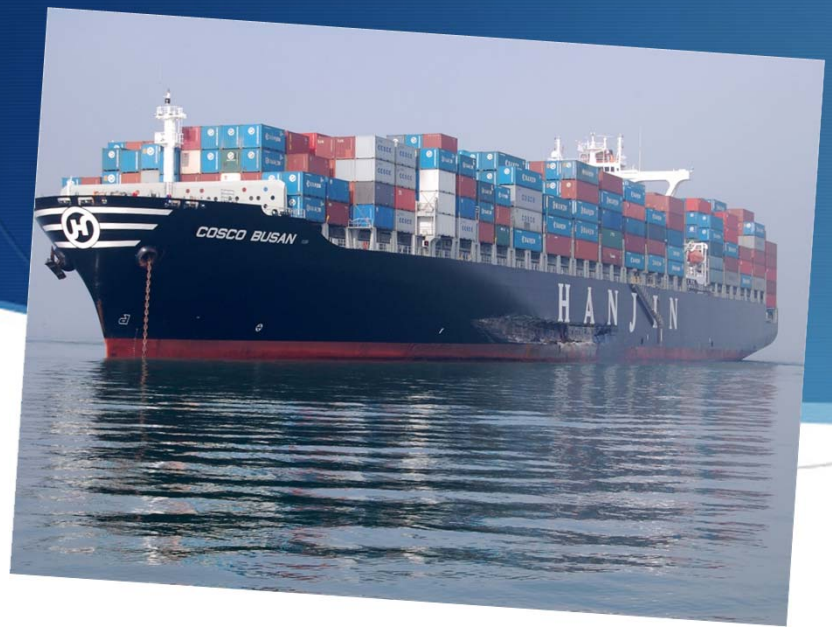
- Seminars, presentation
- Public Outreach
  - Website, newsletters, blog
- National/International Assistance
  - Response planning, spill assistance, facility development

Readiness: Partners

- Participants
  - 30+ orgs represented
  - Rehab orgs, universities, NGOs
- Agreements
  - Them: Provide rapid cooperative response
  - Us: Equip, supply & train

Readiness: Facilities

- Types
  - Primary care: 12 facilities
  - Stabilization: 11 facilities
- Multi-Use
  - Reduces spill startup time
  - Cost-effective maintenance
  - Non-spill use
    - Rehabilitation
    - Education
    - Research



Response

>75 spills in CA, nationally, and internationally, and almost 8,000 oiled birds and mammal

Cosco Busan 2007

Dubai Star 2009

Deepwater Horizon 2010

Rena 2011

Volunteers

- 18 years old
- Sign CDFG's Oath of Allegiance and Volunteer Service Agreement
- 4-hr HAZCOM

Spontaneous Volunteers

Spontaneous Volunteers

- Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR)
  - Non-wildlife volunteer activities
  - Wildlife volunteer activities

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Spontaneous Volunteers

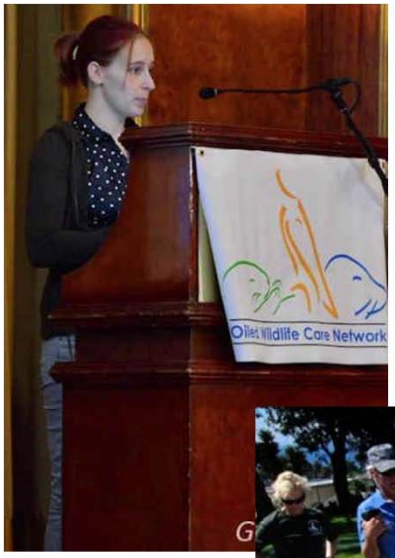
Spontaneous Volunteers

Pre-Trained Volunteers

- Pre-Trained Volunteers
  - Basic
    - “Webinar”, animal care overviews
  - Conference/Labs
    - More advanced techniques

Volunteers Are Important!!!

Pre-trained Volunteers



Photos by Gayle Uyehara

Pre-trained Volunteers

Volunteer Use

Spill	Year	# Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Type
Kure	1997	300	8200	90% spontaneous 10% pre-trained
Stuyvesant	1999	500	9600	90% spontaneous 10% pre-trained
Luckenbach	2001-2002	400	12,000	65% spontaneous 35% pre-trained
Ventura Oiled Bird Incident	2005	500	11,000	80% spontaneous 20% pre-trained
Cosco Busan	2007	950	13,000	50% spontaneous 50% pre-trained

- Cosco Busan = 13,000 volunteer hours

Volunteers in Response

Recovery & Transport

Processing & Intake

Pre-wash care

Cleaning

Conditioning

Release

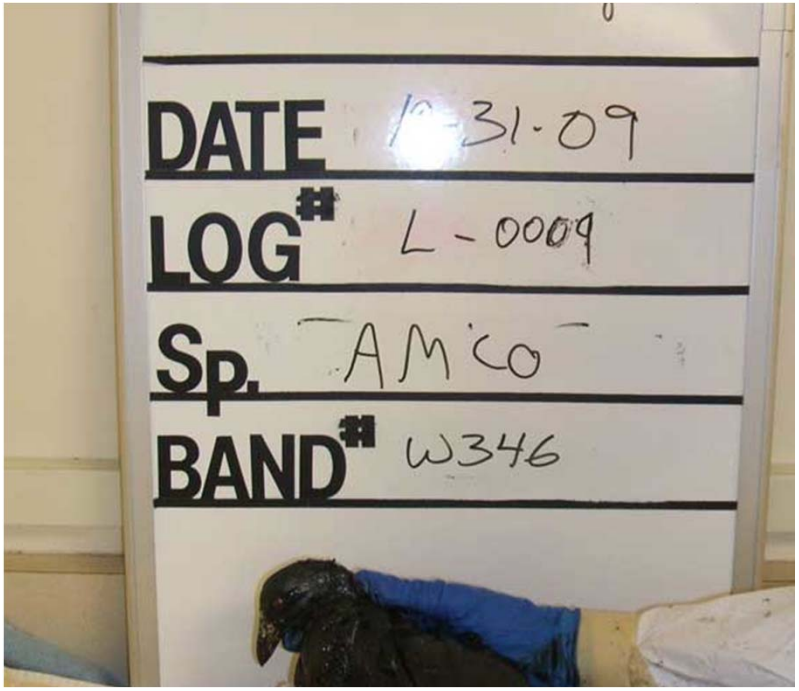
Volunteering: R&T

- Additional training needed for R&T jobs
  - 24 hr HAZWOPER
  - R&T Levels 1-3

- Searching for oiled animals
- Capture/collection
- Field stabilization
- Transportation

Volunteering: Processing & Intake

- Evidence collection area
- Recording information
- Initial health exam

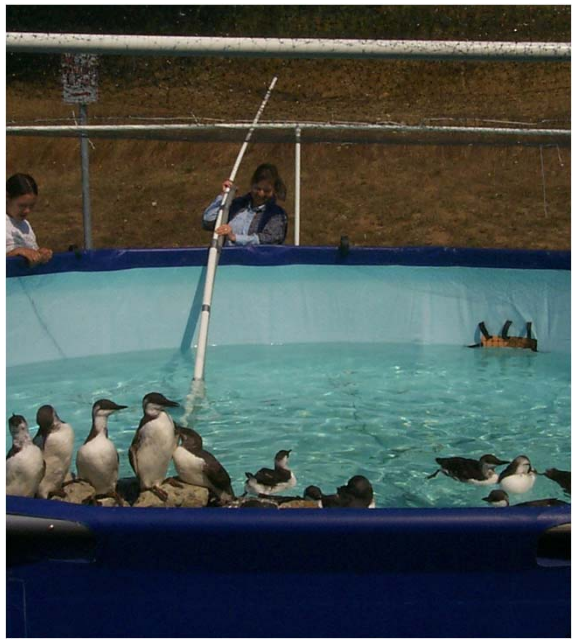


Pre-wash Care

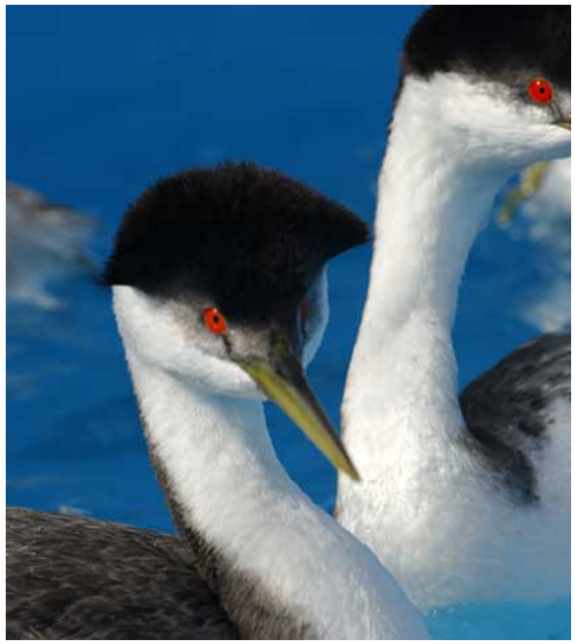
- Holding/restraining
- Tubing
- Examinations
  - Bleeding
  - Temps
  - Evaluations

Cleaning

Pre-Release Conditioning



- Feeding
- Pool Cleaning
- Waterproof Checks
- Observations



Release

Other Volunteer Jobs

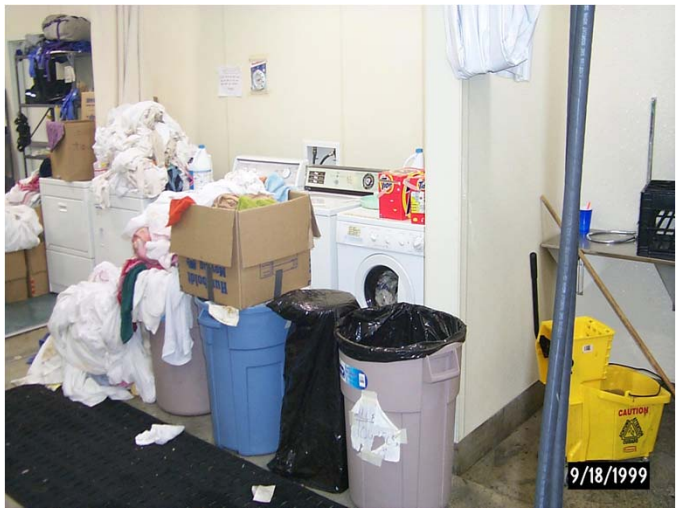
- Facilities Jobs
  - Running pumps
  - Repairs
  - Electrical
  - Plumbing
  - Construction
  - Maintenance

Other Volunteer Jobs

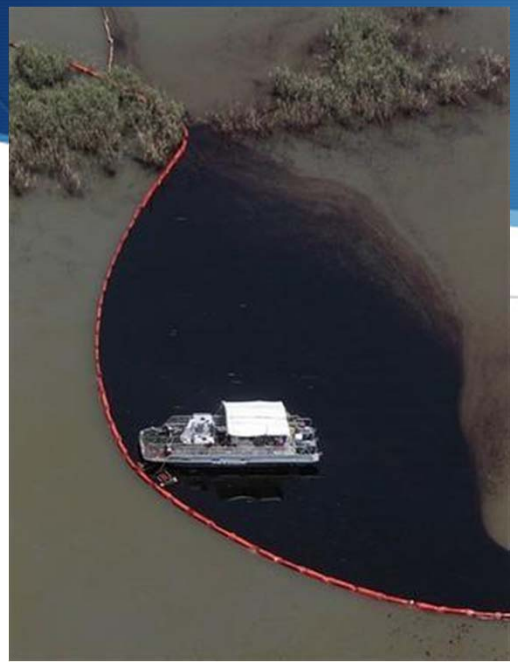
- Administrative
  - Answering phones
  - Clerical services
  - Data entry
  - Volunteer coordination

Other Volunteer Jobs

- Miscellaneous
  - Food preparation
  - Laundry
  - Cage cleaning
  - Lab duties



Summary

- Spontaneous and pre-trained volunteers
- Volunteers are important!
- Volunteers are seen in every aspect of the response
- Wide range of duties

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