

Who We Are



The Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) is a statewide collective of trained wildlife care providers and established regional facilities that work to rescue and rehabilitate oiled wildlife. The program was developed in 1994 as a partnership with the California Department of Fish and Game, Office of Spill Prevention and Response, and the Wildlife Health Center at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis.

This network of regulatory agencies, academic institutions and wildlife organizations is recognized as the world leader in oil spill response, rescue, rehabilitation and research, and is an outstanding example of how such institutions and organizations can collaboratively work toward a common goal.



This oiled California sea lion was rescued and rehabilitated at one of our participating facilities

Rescuing Oiled Wildlife:

What You Can Do

If you find an oiled animal, please do not touch or try to approach it. Handling oiled wildlife may pose a health and safety risk to both you and the animal you are trying to rescue.

Please contact the OWCN Response Hotline immediately (1-877-UCD-OWCN). Helpful information to have available includes:

- Type (and number) of animal(s)
- Location (be as specific as possible, e.g. beach name, where on beach)
- Time last seen
- Your phone number in case we need to reach you

We will direct you to one of our local participating wildlife rehabilitation centers that have been trained to care for oiled wildlife. If an active spill is occurring, we will deploy trained wildlife rescue personnel to collect the animal, then transfer it to one of our purpose-built facilities for care.



Trained Oiled Wildlife Care Network responders on boat patrol, searching for oiled wildlife

What To Do If You Have Already

Captured the Animal...

If an oiled bird has already been captured:

- Keep it confined in a closed cardboard box with holes in the top for ventilation.
- **Please do not attempt to feed or handle the bird!**
- Call the OWCN Response Hotline immediately at (877) UCD-OWCN for further instructions.
- **The presence of humans can be a source of great stress for wildlife.** To help reduce stress, keep the confined animal in a dark, quiet location, away from any pets or children.

Finding individual oiled animals is unfortunately not an uncommon event along our coastline. Many times it is not related to an active oil spill event. Individual wildlife are regular victims of natural oils seeps and unidentified mystery spills. If there is not an ongoing oil spill response when we are contacted, we will direct you to one of our local participating wildlife rehabilitation centers that have been trained to care for oiled wildlife.



Thank you for being a concerned citizen!

Other Ways to Help

- Volunteer at an OWCN participating organization. For information on the organization closest to you, visit our website at www.owcn.org.
- Support your local wildlife agencies and wildlife rehabilitation organizations.
- Reduce the potential for releasing oil into the environment by following proper disposal guidelines (see www.epa.gov/msw/hhw.htm).



OWCN Participants

Report Oiled Wildlife

Oiled Wildlife Care Network
(877) UCD-OWCN (823-6926)

Report Oil in the Environment

Office of Spill Prevention & Response
1-800-OILS-911

Oiled Wildlife Care Network

General Information: (530) 752-4167

Web Sites for More Information

Oiled Wildlife Care Network: www.owcn.org

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: www.fws.gov/contaminants/Issues/OilSpill

UC Davis Wildlife Health Center: www.wildlifehealthcenter.org

International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council:
www.iwrc.online.org/emergency/emergency

California Department of Fish and Game, Office of Spill Prevention
and Response: www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr

EPA: www.epa.gov/oilspill/index

U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety and Environmental Protection:
www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/gmhome.htm

National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association: www.nrawildlife.org

Oiled Wildlife: What You Need to Know



Oiled Wildlife Care Network

UC Davis Wildlife Health Center

Providing best achievable care to oil-affected wildlife by partnering with management agencies, universities, industry, and rehabilitation groups

