The newest facility in the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) has opened at UC Santa Cruz. The Oiled Wildlife Veterinary Care and Research Center provides sea otter rescue and wildlife pathology. The new center carries out a joint program between the California Department of Fish and Game and the UC Santa Cruz Institute for Marine Sciences at Long Marine Laboratory, which is located just next door.

The Marine Wildlife Care Center at Humboldt State University opened last February. It serves as classrooms for the wildlife department until there is an emergency—it then converts to a rescue and recovery center, with participation of university science faculty, animal care staff and students. The facility, designed for the care of oiled seabirds found offshore and along the California coast from Point Arena to the Oregon border, includes washing stations, triage rooms and recovery housing.

Other new seabird facilities are being built in San Francisco and Los Angeles. These new OWCN members will offer rescue and rehabilitation services as well as education on seabird health, including K-12 educational programs, opportunities for veterinary students to participate in rotations or externships, and graduate level educational projects.

OWCN Opens New Facilities for Wildlife Care

The Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) maintains permanent facilities and trained personnel in a state of constant readiness for response to an oil spill emergency. OWCN personnel provide the best possible treatment and care for wildlife exposed to petroleum products in the environment. The OWCN, managed by the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine’s Wildlife Health Center, comprises 21 wildlife organizations and rescue and rehabilitation stations, a competitive research grants program and comprehensive training programs.

California’s Oiled Wildlife Care Network

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