

School Launches New Program for Marine Ecosystem Health

The school's Wildlife Health Center has established a new Marine Ecosystem Health Program.

The program, made possible by a gift from the Dickinson Foundation, is aimed at restoring and enhancing wildlife population health and environmental health along the Pacific Coast of North America. It will tap the expertise of leading scientists and conservationists from diverse academic, governmental and nongovernmental agencies and organizations.

The Marine Ecosystem Health Program will identify research and conser-

vation priorities, administer funding for competitive research grants and hold annual scientific symposia. Special emphasis will be placed on the San Juan Archipelago and the Northwest Straits region of Washington State.

The University of Washington Friday Harbor Laboratories will play a key role in implementing the program in the San Juans, assisted by The Whale Museum (Friday Harbor, Washington) and the Moss Landing Marine Laboratory (California).

The Wildlife Health Center conducts teaching, research and service activities to restore and maintain wildlife, human and ecosystem health. It coordinates scientists, managers and policymakers in addressing complex wildlife health and conservation issues. Among other programs, the center administers California's Oiled Wildlife Care Network, a coalition of 23 facilities and organizations that rescue and rehabilitate marine mammals and birds affected by oil spills along the California coast.

New Rescue Facility for Oiled Wildlife Opens

A new wildlife care center, the third in a series constructed for the rescue and rehabilitation of California wildlife injured in oil spills, opened July 17.

The SeaWorld Oiled Wildlife Care Center, on Mission Bay, will provide the best achievable treatment for marine mammals and birds affected by oil spills in California's southernmost coastal waters.

The first two wildlife care centers, opened in 1997 at Humboldt State University and UC Santa Cruz, have already been used to treat thousands of birds oiled in several spills.

The care centers are part of the Oiled Wildlife Care Network, which has trained hundreds of veterinarians, animal health technicians, wildlife

rehabilitators and volunteers to collect, transport, examine, feed, clean and rehabilitate wildlife species likely to be injured in a California spill. The network includes 23 wildlife care facilities and organizations (including SeaWorld) throughout the state, ready to respond rapidly to spills.

One of the many lessons learned from past oil spills is that the presence of an appropriately designed and equipped veterinary care facility and well-trained staff gives wildlife their best chance to survive being oiled.

The new 8,000-square-foot complex is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and research of oiled marine wildlife, with emphasis on sea birds. It includes veterinary examination, treatment and food preparation areas, and

washing, drying and rehabilitation rooms. Two 380-square-foot outdoor aviaries provide ample space for up to 200 recovering sea birds, and a 32,000-gallon rehabilitation pool will accommodate up to 20 sea otters or pinnipeds (seals, sea lions).

When not activated for oil spill response, the new center will be used as an overflow operation to care for ill or injured animals in SeaWorld's rescue and rehabilitation program. It will be staffed by wildlife professionals, from the park's aviculture and animal care departments, who have received state certification and training in rescue, intake, washing, drying, housing, rehabilitation and supportive care of animals injured by oil spills.

Fall Symposium on Recent Advances in Clinical Veterinary Medicine Takes Place September 16-17, 2000 at UC Davis

Small animal medicine, equine medicine, and food animal medicine programs, as well as an economic minisymposium and beginning small animal abdominal ultrasonography shortcourse will be presented at the Thirteenth Annual Fall Symposium at UC Davis on September 16 and 17, 2000. The event also features an RVT

(registered veterinary technician) and veterinary assistant program that includes diagnostic radiology and a variety of other topics.

Nobel Prize-winning veterinarian Peter C. Doherty will present the annual Schalm Memorial Lecture, titled "Dealing with Virus Infections" on September 17. Distinguished veterinary immunologist Ronald Schultz will pre-

sent the annual Robert M. Cello Lecture, "Veterinary Vaccinations" a series of five presentations (dairy, beef, equine, canine and feline vaccinations) during the various programs.

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