



Summer 2015

Wild Times

Dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of Southern California's sick, injured and orphaned wildlife

CWC Welcomes New Executive Director, Stacy Applegate



Bonnie Freund, Patty Killion, Stacy Applegate and Ron Freund at her Welcoming Party

A Personal Message from Stacy

On July 5, 2015, Board Members, Staff, Interns, Externs, and Volunteers came together for an afternoon BBQ at the CWC to warmly welcome me as their new Executive Director. Having recently relocated from Charlotte, North Carolina, I was thrilled to be so enthusiastically received into the CWC family. My dog, Maddie, was even allowed to participate in the festivities!

As a North Carolina certified small mammal wildlife rehabilitator since 2000, I am thrilled to be combining my vocation with my passion for rehabilitation and releasing orphaned and injured wildlife. There all songbirds and small mammals are rehabilitated by home care volunteers. Here it's wonderful to see CWC and its great homecare network working together to provide high levels of care. Rehabilitating wildlife while in a professional working environment was a tricky balancing act I maintained for years. Thank goodness I have traded my business suit and heels for a CWC t-shirt and hiking boots!

Most of my professional experience has been in human resources and management, although I've also worked in variety of industries. I also served on the board of a homeless shelter while we were acquiring our 501c3 status and moved into a permanent location. I hope that my business knowledge and 25 years of combined experience will be an asset to the center. Some of the projects I'm looking forward to bringing my expertise to are streamlining our volunteer program, rebranding CWC's website and educational materials to be more inviting and modern, and developing an education program for both children and adults.

I feel so honored to be entrusted with the task of leading CWC. I am dedicated to making sure animals are given the best care possible, our interns and externs have a productive learning experience, our staff can excel, and our volunteers feel appreciated and valued. I am excited to be a part of the growth of CWC and could not be more grateful for the opportunity to be a part of such an amazing, talented, and dedicated group of individuals!

Inside: Exciting Wild Brunch Adventures, CWC Welcomes New Veterinarian, Marine Mammal Rescues by the Numbers, Entertaining Seals and more!

Marine Department to the Rescue

By Marine Program Manager, Jeff Hall

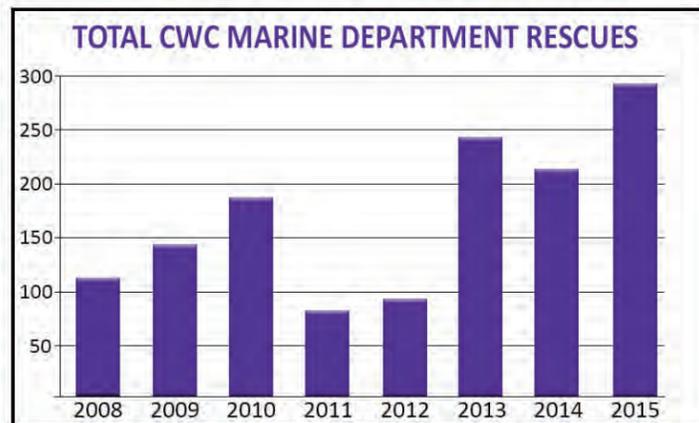
A Statistical Journey

I like marine mammals. I also like numbers. I like numbers so much that a few years ago I went back to school and took a statistics class, just to see if I could. You might not think that rescuing and rehabilitating marine mammals would involve a lot of numbers....but it actually does! And that makes me happy.



Over the past three years CWC's Marine Department has seen a dramatic increase in the number of California Sea Lion rescues. This is due to an ongoing Unusual Mortality Event (UME) that started back in 2013 and was caused by the lack of prey in coastal waters for young sea lions.

The last "normal" year of marine mammal rescues was in 2012, when a total of 94 seals and sea lions were rescued. On average, 125 animals were rescued annually from 2008 to 2012. That's compared to 250 average annual rescues from 2013 to the summer of 2015! For those of you who aren't a wiz at numbers like I am...that's twice the number of rescues! Just this year alone (and remember that we still have fall and winter months ahead) CWC's Marine Department has rescued 292 animals.



CWC is not the only organization experiencing this increase. Rescue and rehabilitation groups along the West Coast are experiencing it as well. This year it is estimated that over 4,000 marine mammals, mostly California Sea Lion pups, washed up sick, injured, or emaciated along the shore. Due to capacity issues, many of them were unable to be rescued. In response CWC began rehabilitation of California Sea Lions in February, a first for the Marine Department, and will continue rehabilitating them throughout the year.

While the number of animals stranded on beaches continues to increase each year, CWC's capacity continues to grow as well! Thank you for your support and for taking this statistical journey with me.

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Exciting New Auction Items. Mark Your Calendar!



And Plan Your Escape to the Wild and Wonderful!

This September, our Wild Bruch will once again take place on the beautiful and scenic estate in Malibu that has been our venue for the past six years. Every year, the high point of the event has been our live auctions and this year it is going to be the BEST EVER!

In addition to many of the wonderful trips we've offered in the past, we're delighted to be adding several new and enhanced once-in-a-lifetime experiences to our roster. Feel like treating yourself to up close encounters with the panoply of Galápagos' creatures in their native habitats—on land and in the sea? Is a luxury African safari more like what you have dreamed of? Or are Polar Bears and the northern lights in your sights? Can't decide right now? Two business class seats to almost anywhere on one of the world's best airlines might be the ticket! And, everyone who attends will get a free raffle ticket that could win them a week in Maui!



Galapagos Adventure with Lindblad Expeditions



10 Days, 4-Countries, Countless Adventures



Churchill Town/Tundra Polar Bear Adventure



1 Week at Hilton Los Cabos Beach Resort



2 Business Class tickets anywhere they fly



1 Week in Bali Villa with Pool and Staff

As you have come to expect, there will be lots of great food, beverages and entertainment. Kristy's Wood Grill, Monrose Catering, Marmalade, Pedalers Fork and Beachy Cream will join some of Malibu's finest vintners (Hoyt Family Vineyards, Malibu Vineyards, Caro's Ridge, Gold Coast Mead and Martian Ranch) and a Mimosa Bar by Korbel to keep us feeling happy. And one of this year's special projects in the Kid Zone is the creation of a take-home bird feeder! We look forward to seeing you there!

Summer '15

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Welcome Our New Veterinarian

Dr. Lorraine Barbosa Joins Our Veterinary Staff



Dr. Barbosa, formerly of the The Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, will be focusing on marine mammal care while working alongside Dr. Tom assisting with the medical management of our avian and terrestrial patients!

In addition to extensive experience rehabbing harbor seals, sea lions and elephant seals, Dr. Barbosa has done field work with elephant seals in Argentina, fur seals in Chile, sea turtles in Costa Rica and dolphins in Belize. We're very excited to have her on board.

The Hawk That Couldn't Walk

By Dr. Duane Tom

On March 27th, a member of the public brought us a Red-tailed Hawk that she found on the ground in Chevy Chase Canyon. The bird was alert but unable to stand because both its legs were broken. Our radiographs of her fractures proved so serious that we considered euthanization, but since we could technically perform both surgeries, we went ahead.

She lay in a towel-donut for support for over 2 weeks before she could begin to stand. Weeks later, she was moved to a larger pen so she could build up her muscle strength. On week 7 we removed all the metal pins from her legs and moved to our largest aviary to learn how to fly again. On June 28th, she was finally released, soaring off to live out her life as she once knew it.



Critter Corner "Prettier As We Age"

Is it true that we get prettier as we age?

I sure hope so!

Of course we do kids! Just look at me!



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How to Entertain Seals and Sea Lions

By Colleen Weiler

Marine Mammal Staff Comes Up With Creative Ways to Alleviate Boredom

The mental health of our patients is as important as their physical health. Sea lions in particular can get bored sitting around waiting between feeding times, and boredom can lead to stress and fighting between animals. To provide some great mental stimulation and encourage natural behaviors that will help the animals in the wild, like developing foraging skills or promoting socialization, we had to put our creative hats on.

We knew we had to avoid anything that would encourage human interaction once they've returned to the wild – fake plastic toys or balls that look like the buoys on fishing lines wouldn't do. The last thing we want is a repeat visitor who's back because she's all wrapped up in fishing line!



A trip to the carwash sparked a "Ta-Da" idea! These carwash strips move in the same way kelp moves! Cut them in a wavy pattern, throw them in the pool, mix in some fish, and the seals and sea lions have to swim through the "kelp forest" to find their food – just like they would in the wild!

It has been a big hit. Even the elephant seals get excited when we put the "kelp" in their pool, chewing on it, rolling around in it, and throwing it around even when there's no fish involved.



Photo by Kim Barker

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