

Animal rescue center told to move out

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SCOTTS VALLEY — The owner of a Scotts Valley wildlife rescue center has been given notice to vacate property owned by Kaiser Sand and Gravel Company in Scotts Valley.

Jeanne Milewski, owner of American Wildlife Rescue Service, was given the eviction notice by a deputy on Monday, according to Colleen O'Reilly, Sheriff's Office civil process supervisor. The notice gives her five days, but O'Reilly said the Sheriff's Office would probably wait until next week to enforce the order.

Since 1982, Milewski has leased about 2½ acres of land from Kaiser for her wildlife service. Combined with her acre-sized lot on Conference Drive, it has been used to house hundreds of animals, ranging from mountain lions and monkeys to peacocks and chickens.

But last December, Kaiser told her it was severing the agreement after Milewski and the company were cited by county zoning and fire authorities. The violations included illegal trailers with extension cords running across the ground, large piles of rubbish, abandoned cars, and wild animals being kept without a permit.

Milewski has charged that Kaiser was using the violations as an excuse to kick her off the property so the land could be developed. She had demanded a court trial after being formally notified on Kaiser's intent to evict her earlier this year.

Kaiser officials have denied they are making a land grab. Last Thursday, an attorney for the company got a summary judgment from a Municipal Court judge on the eviction issue.

Jim Rankin of Santa Cruz said Judge Tom Kelly ruled Kaiser was entitled to possess the property.

When reached for comment Milewski told the Sentinel: "I'm not giving out any more oral interviews except on TV where I can't be misquoted."