

SJMN MAY 9, 1995

Supervisors asked to give \$500 to group that aids wild animals

Animal shelters
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Santa Cruz County supervisors will decide today whether to give \$500 to a group that cares for lost, sick or injured wild animals.

Native Animal Rescue — the group county residents call when they find an orphaned baby bird in the back yard, an oil-soaked

sea bird on the beach or a sick sea lion pup in the surf — wants to use the money to attract grants and donations, according to Supervisor Jan Beautz. Beautz is urging her colleagues to make the donation.

In a letter seeking the \$500, the organization's president, prominent Capitola businesswoman

Gayle Ortiz, noted that Native Animal Rescue handles more than 2,000 wild animals annually.

"Last year," she wrote, "residents of Santa Cruz County delivered 1,100 of these animals to NAR for treatment. Another 1,075 . . . came from the four cities" in the county.

She said the group has taken

care of approximately 150 species of wild birds and animals, "many of which are rare, threatened or endangered. At this time of year, NAR receives many infant birds and animals that are orphaned or injured by natural phenomenon."

The supervisors' meeting will begin at 9 a.m.