

# Funding Falls Short for Animal Relief Efforts

Animal Shelter

MCP AUG 8-21, 1995

Scientists looking at why the coastal sea otter and several species of sea bird are experiencing a sudden "die-off" in the Monterey Bay Sanctuary are far from finding an answer after a battery of initial tests yielded inconclusive results. Now they say they will look for additional funds to move forward with more expensive pollutants tests and other costly procedures as they try to isolate the elements involved in this perplexing case of marine life morbidity.

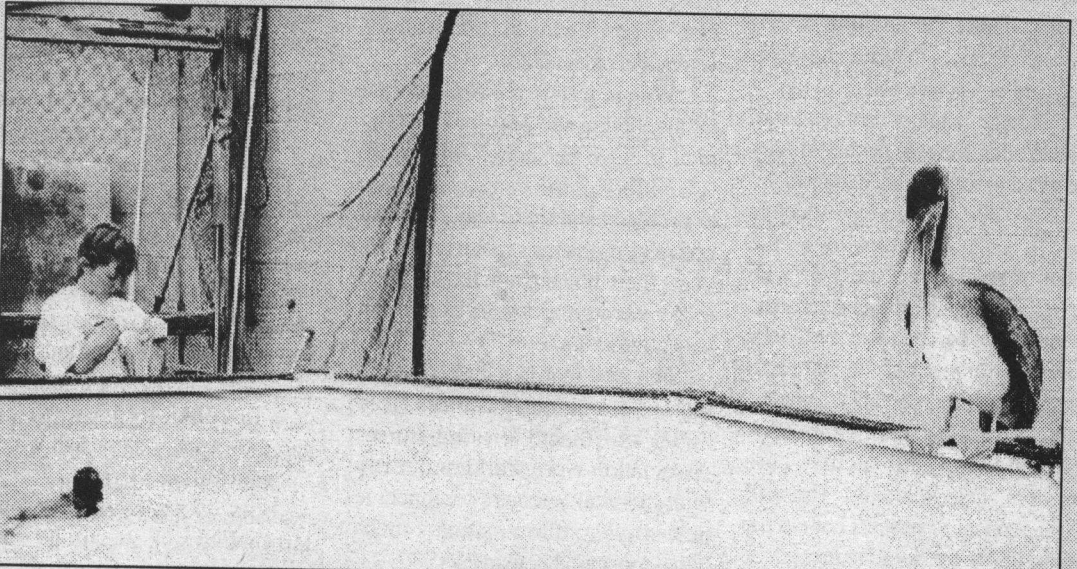
The unexpected number of sea birds requiring assistance in the past few weeks has nearly depleted the entire year's supply of nutritional food supplements and medicines kept by the staff at Native Animal Rescue Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (NAR) in Santa Cruz.

NAR has treated hundreds of birds since the die-off began in June. It costs approximately \$50 per day in food and medications to treat one pelican, and murre cost about \$20 per day, according to NAR director Lori

organization desperately needs donations to keep the non-profit center operating.

Making matters worse is that legislation, voted on in the U.S. House of Representatives at the end of July, would restrict the Environmental Protection Agency's enforcement of laws regulating drinking water, lakes and streams, automobile emissions, sewage, wetlands and pesticides in foods. Additionally, environmental resource funding would be cut.

The bill, which succeeded



**The unexpected number of sea birds requiring assistance in the past few weeks has nearly depleted the entire year's supply of nutritional food supplements and medicines kept by the staff.**

"It's complicated and there are very few funds available to look at these kinds of things so people are scraping together with what they can," said Harry Carter, a wildlife biologist affiliated with the National Biological Service in Sacramento. "If we really want to know the cause we'll have to expend a lot more money, and there's just not much government money available right now."

Moak-Kean. A combined donation of \$1,500 offered by the County of Santa Cruz and the Cities of Watsonville and Santa Cruz gave the NAR effort a much-needed boost, but this money has already been spent to replenish spent resources and cover the costs of expensive diagnostic procedures like x-rays at veterinary hospitals, Moak-Kean said. She stressed that the relief

under the leadership of Republican lawmaker Tom DeLay of Texas and a group of pro-business GOP conservatives, would slice out one third of the EPA's budget and recommends cuts in numerous other departments. President Bill Clinton has threatened a veto on the basis of these drastic cuts. The bill is currently being deliberated before the Senate. □