

DoINGS

Wildlife Response Class to Be Held at Bluffs Park

Whether a community is faced with thousands of injured wild animals during a disaster like an oil spill, or confronted with a few individuals here and there, these wildlife casualties stand a better chance of being found, captured, and of surviving if their rescuers are well trained and equipped.

Rescuing disabled wild animals requires a unique set of skills, very different from those used in handling domestic animals. A unique class on these skills is being offered Feb. 21 at the Michael Landon Community Center from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

WildRescue's director, Rebecca Dmytryk, who also founded the Malibu-based California Wildlife Center, developed this program to help communities strengthen their capacity to aid debilitated wild animals and the people who find them. She sees the classes as a way to help local rescue organizations attract new recruits.

In addition to learning the



FOR THE ANIMALS—Above, an instructor teaches volunteers about capturing injured wildlife.

principles of wildlife rescue, students will be instructed on a variety of capture strategies for land and marine animals.

During hands-on exercises, participants will be able to practice their capture skills on a remote controlled "duck."

While this comprehensive training provides direction on handling wildlife, completion of the class does not exempt anyone from regulations that govern possession of native wildlife,

oiled or non-oiled.

After her first inaugural class in the Bay Area last November, Dmytryk was contracted by International Bird Rescue Research Center (IBRRC) to provide additional classes throughout the state.

Participants must be 18 years or older. There is a \$50 fee to register for the eight-hour class. Space is limited. For information or to register, email rebecca@wildrescue.org or call 831-840-3896.