

## **Abstract**

### **Post-Release Studies in Oiled Wildlife Rehabilitation: Importance, Techniques and Examples**

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Rehabilitation of oiled wildlife has improved through the use of advanced medical skills and techniques often developed by human or domestic animal practice. A significant proportion of animals are healed and returned to their environment, especially in recent years. However, people still question the ultimate fate of these animals and argue that, without knowing whether the rehabilitated animals return to normal biological functioning, the act of treating oiled animals results in a greater advantage to the human psyche than to the populations of animals they serve. Post-release studies of rehabilitated oiled wildlife are still relatively rare. Their value, however, cannot be understated, as these data can not only help to address the individual vs. population “argument”, but can also help to better refine rehabilitation techniques and allow more effective use of limited resources. This presentation will summarize the results of post-release follow-up studies of rehabilitated oiled wildlife and provide general information on techniques and methods pertinent to oiled wildlife rehabilitation.