

Abstract

Oiled Penguins' Response Utilizing the Petrobras' Mobile Units – Santa Catarina, Brazil

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In August 2008, hundreds of live and dead oil impacted penguins stranded on the coasts of Santa Catarina, Brazil. Petrobras' mobile units for oiled wildlife were mobilized, along with the Center for Environmental Defense South team (CDA Sul, in Portuguese) and the CRAM wildlife response team. Locally, they jointly responded with the Environmental Police and the NGO R3 Animal. The birds rescued alive were sent to CETAS-IBAMA, at Parque Florestal do Rio Vermelho, in Florianópolis. Two, standard, 19-foot containers make up the Petrobras' mobile units. One container serves as the washroom and is equipped with two on-demand water heaters set with pressure pumps. The second container operates as logistical support and is composed of storage space, office and a water closet (Reis, EOW 2003). Equipment stored includes basic supplies for bird capture, transport and rehabilitation, medical supplies and equipment and personal protection equipment for safety. The units were installed where the rescued birds were kept, by CETAS-IBAMA facilities, ideally utilizing water and power from the public services. Two tents, also stored in the units, were set-up as an examination room. Three, 10.000 liter Startank™, pools were set: 1) connected to the public services to maintain the water level of the washroom tank, 2) to store oily waste water, 3) to store brackish water from Rio Vermelho, utilizing a SPAPE™ 75C pump, for cleaning husbandry areas. The physical structure of the cleaning unit supports two washing stations and one rinsing station, which allowed de-oiling at an average of 18 birds a day, totaling 295 clean birds in 16 days. Having the units available at short notice facilitated a rapid and efficient response, releasing 88,1% (289/328) of the birds.