

Abstract

Mystery Oil Spill at the German Northsea Coast in 2008 and Successful Rehabilitation with European Cooperation!

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In February 2008 three oiled birds reached the German island Föhr. The animals were collected by the Tierhuus-Team, the wildlife animal station on the island. As soon as the third bird arrived, the station vet called the harbour police but no source of pollution was found. Over the next 3 days more than 200 birds were collected on Föhr and the neighboring island of Amrum. All birds were delivered to the Tierhuus, where they received first aid and special medical treatment. The Tierhuus- Insel Föhr station is also the residence of the "Oelvogelhilfe Germany". After 2 days the city of Wyk/Föhr provided a bigger hall to Tierhuus because the station was not big enough for some hundred birds. The call for help reached the Netherlands and Belgium and after a short time stabilized birds were transported, with the help from the Seal Center Lenie«' Hart, to the Dutch bird center "Fugelpits". Nearly 280 birds made this trip and over 86% could be released. During the time, the "Sea Alarm" send a team from Belgium to help the Tierhuus Team to care for the oiled birds. It was only the volunteer work from the local wildlife station on Föhr working with the city and volunteers from partner stations in the north and other European organisations that saved nearly 300 birds live after being in an oil spill. The presentation should show how good cooperation could work even across country borders.