

# Marine Science Center

## Mary Keller Seabird Rehabilitation Clinic



# History

- ❖ The Mary Keller Seabird Rehabilitation clinic opened in 2004. It was named in honor of Mary Keller a local wildlife rehabilitator. She cared for thousands of birds in her 40 years of rescuing and rehabilitating local wildlife
- ❖ Our goal is to rehabilitate injured/orphaned native and migratory birds, after rehabilitation we return them to their natural habitat
- ❖ We have admitted over 13,000 birds since we opened. Recording over 190 different species of birds
- ❖ The clinic is open for rehabilitation 7 days a week, from 8am-4:30pm. After hour call line 386-561-0624



# Rescue and Transport Process

- ❖ Public finds an injured or orphaned bird
  - Approach the bird to assess the situation
  - Contact the clinic at 386-304-5530 or 386-561-0624 (emergency)
  - After consulting with a professional, if the bird doesn't escape, we encourage the public to safely attempt to contain the bird using appropriate gear.
- ❖ Network with Volusia County Beach Patrol, local animal control and other enforcement agencies



# Drop Off Boxes

- ❖ Located in front of the seabird clinic at 4965 S. Peninsula Dr., next to the lighthouse.
- ❖ For after hours drop off.





# ICU

- ❖ Needs to be maintained as a stress free environment
- ❖ Patients undergo initial physical exams and assessments



# Supportive Care in ICU

- ❖ Our ICU is equipped with a small lab: microscope, incubator, autoclave, access to a digital x-ray machine
- ❖ Our primary focus is to stabilize the animal's condition, administer fluids, treat for shock and set up in a cage for rest
- ❖ We then proceed to a complete physical
- ❖ Most of the birds go through fluid therapy
- ❖ Each species has different needs
  - Habitat
  - Diet



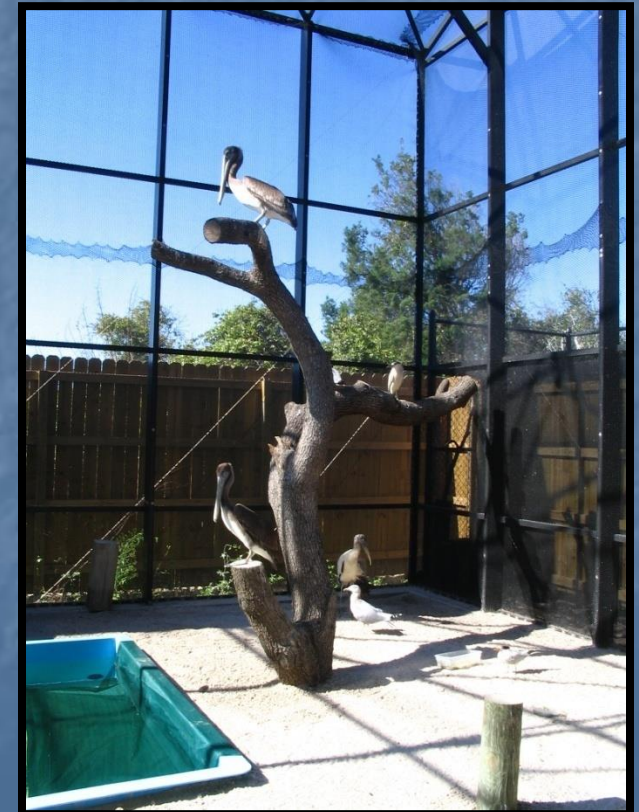
# Conditioning Rooms

- ❖ Reconditioning – increase body mass and recovery
- ❖ Modified for different species of birds (pool, perches, foliage)



# Flight Cages

- ❖ Final stage of rehabilitation
- ❖ Staff observes flight strength and pattern, waterproofing and acclimation





# Release



# Some of the reasons we receive wildlife





# Migration

- ❖ Affects the inexperienced juveniles, the weakened geriatrics and injured
- ❖ These birds are usually admitted exhausted and emaciated



# Baby Season

- ❖ Another very busy time of year for us
- ❖ The best parent for any bird is it's own parent
- ❖ It is illegal to raise wildlife at home, unless you are a licensed rehabilitator. Also illegal to harass or remove an active bird nest
- ❖ Most birds will tolerate a human smell on their young. It's fine to pick up a baby to reunite it with the parents
- ❖ Parents will abandon unhealthy babies
- ❖ Fledglings learn to fly from the ground up, therefore they spend a lot of time on the ground. Please keep your cats and dogs inside, be cautious while mowing the lawn or playing in the yard. Please report feral cats to your local animal control





# Human Interference

## Pollution (Fishing Line and Hooks)

- ❖ Fishing line and hooks affect approximately 80% of our admitted Brown Pelicans
- ❖ How you can help?
  - Dispose of fish scraps properly
  - Dispose of fishing line properly
  - Never cut your line if a bird gets entangled



# Recent Case

- ❖ Rescued in July 2012 after surgical procedure.  
Released in August 2012



# Habitat Destruction and Harassment

- ❖ Do not disturb shorebirds
- ❖ Keep dogs leashed on the beach
- ❖ Protect and preserve coastal habitats
- ❖ Do not feed or encourage feral cats





# Thank You

