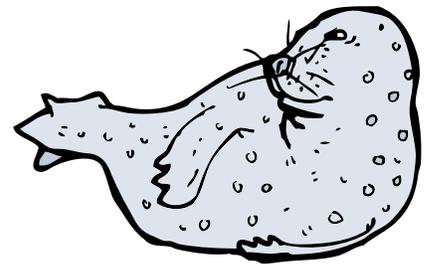
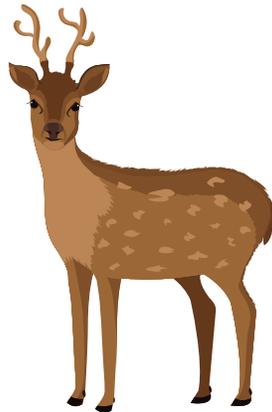
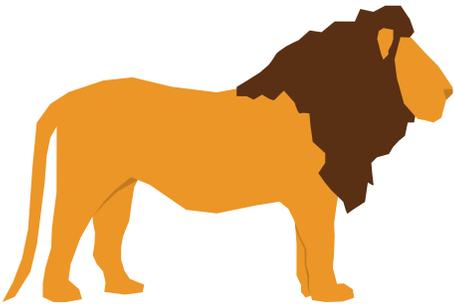


D'Marcus the Wildlife Veterinarian: Protecting Animals

Meet D'Marcus

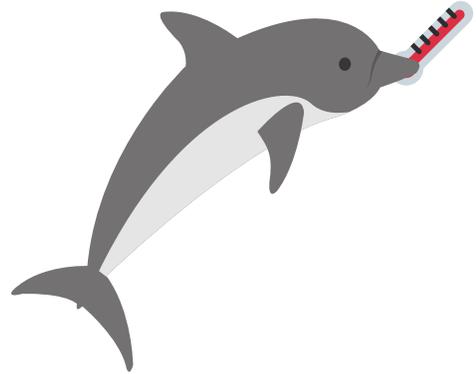


Hi! My name is D'Marcus, and I am a wildlife veterinarian! A veterinarian is a doctor who treats animals. I treat wild animals, which are animals that live in nature. For example, deer, hawks, lions, and seals.

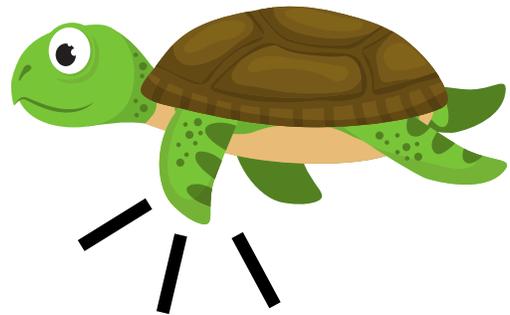
What Wildlife Veterinarian Do

Right now, I work at a wildlife rehabilitation center in Florida.

A wildlife rehabilitation center is a place where animals go who are sick or injured. As a veterinarian, it is my job to help animals who come to the center.



Last month, we helped a sea turtle who had an injured flipper. The turtle needed to have a cast put on her flipper so it would heal properly.



My team created a special cast made of plastic that would hold the flipper in place while it healed!



What I am Working On

Today, I got a call that a group of animals who live in the ocean need our help! There was an oil spill in the ocean.



Oil spills happen when oil accidentally spills into the water. When oil spills into the water, it gets stuck on animals' bodies. Take a look at this turtle! He is covered in oil and has trouble moving.



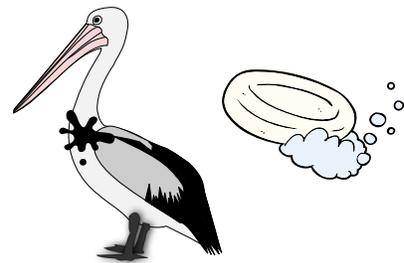
Saving Animals

Here is what we will do to save each animal!

Place each animal in a large tub.



Remove the oil using special soap and water.



Give the animal any medication it needs.



Keep the animal in the rehabilitation center for a few days to make sure it is healthy.



Release the animals back into the ocean.

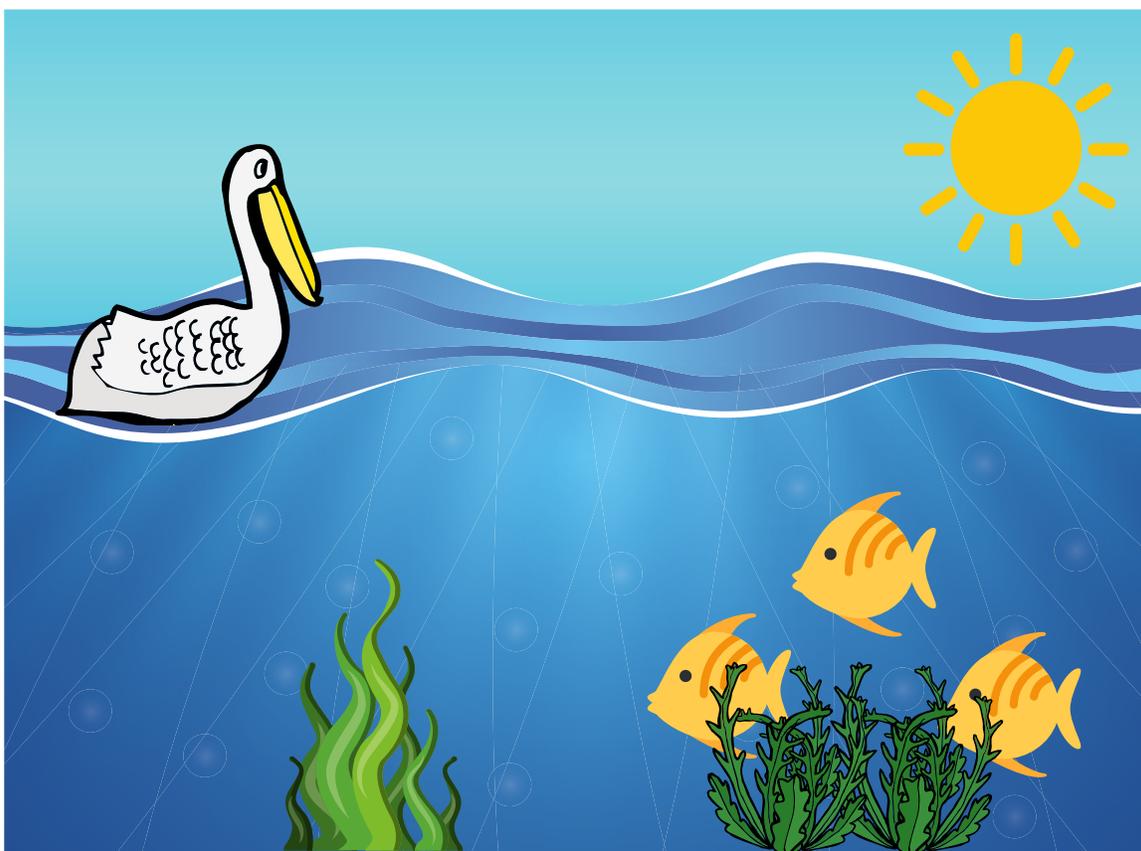


Making a Poster

After helping animals who were in the oil spill, I realized that I want more people to know the dangers of oil spills. I decide to create a poster that can be put up in the rehabilitation center. When people take a tour of the center, they can look at the poster. On the poster, there will be two pictures.

Here is what the first picture will look like:

Ocean with no oil spill:

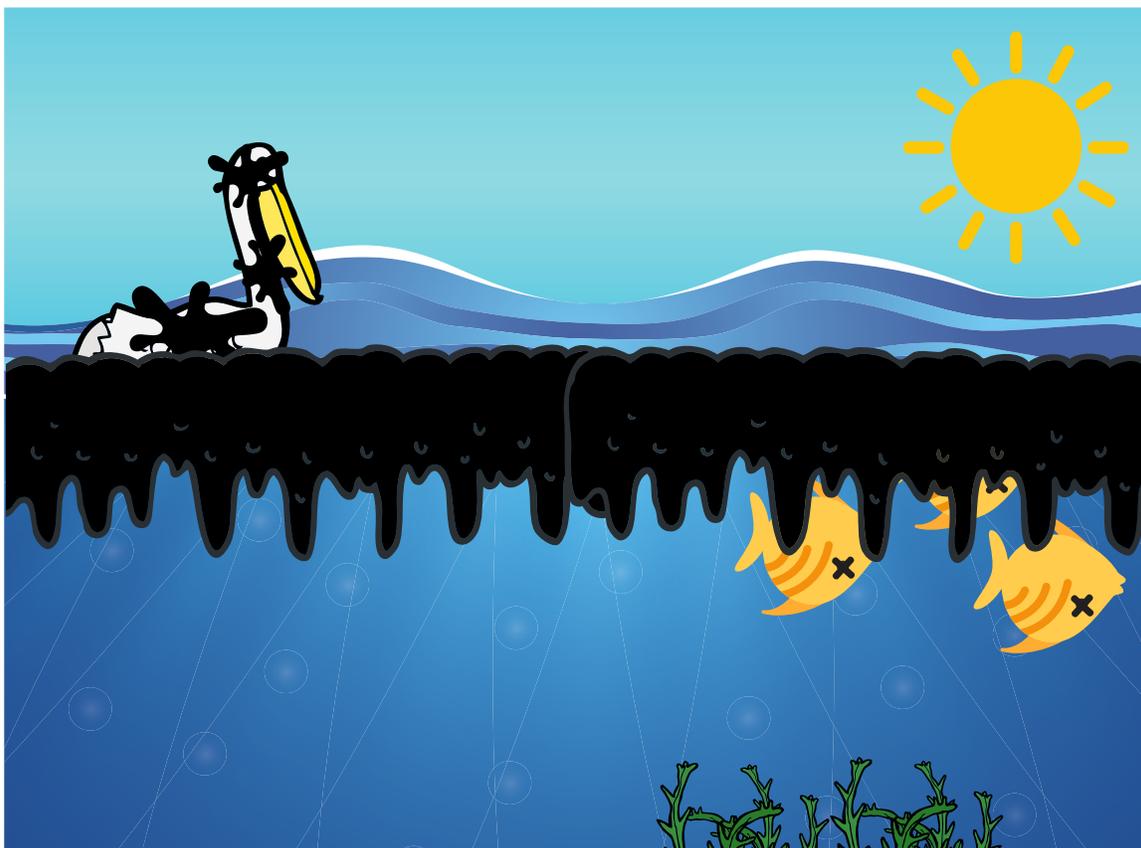


Sunlight shines over the water. Plants grow because of energy from the sun. Fish eat the plants. Larger animals, like pelicans and seals, eat the fish. Plants, fish, and larger animals all rely on energy from the sun.

Making a Poster

Here is what the second picture will look like:

Ocean with an oil spill:



When oil spills into the water, it blocks sunlight from going into the water. This can cause plants to die. Then, fish do not have plants to eat. Then, fish will die. Animals who eat fish won't have a food source. Then, those animals will also die. Because the sun was blocked by the oil spill, plants, fish, and all animals were negatively affected!

**I know I can help teach visitors at the center
about oil spills!**