

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT - TANIA KIMSEY by Kirsten Sedlick

Tania Kimsey started as an Animal Care Volunteer in January 2002, right in the middle of our busy season. Typically a volunteer doesn't learn how to restrain an animal for tube feedings on their very first day, but Tania was not a typical volunteer! At that time, we had over 60 animals to care for and amidst the whirlwind of activity, she rose to the occasion. Tania restrained ten elephant seal pups and five sea lion pups that first day. With so many animals to feed, that day quickly turned into night and I remember thinking, "I hope she comes back the next week!" Lucky for the Center, she came back and was ready to go!



Although small in stature, Tania became quite adept at rescuing large adult sea lions, netting and capturing animals more than twice her size. One of my favorite memories of Tania is going to Huntington Beach to rescue a 200 plus pound female sea lion. Tania netted the animal, and the sea lion immediately stood up on all four flippers and began to run! I quickly wrapped my arms around her waist to stop her from being dragged across the beach by the feisty female!

Tania was a member of the Tuesday afternoon shift, but when we were busy, she dedicated her time and energy working all day, as well as picking up a shift on Mondays. Over time, she was chosen as a Team Leader. In that capacity, Tania helped train new volunteers, ran feedings, led rescues, and so much more. She is a thoughtful and considerate individual who displays enthusiasm that always keeps other volunteers motivated. Tania has a contagious laugh that can lift your spirits even when faced with great challenges.