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**For Immediate Release**



## **PACIFIC MARINE MAMMAL CENTER RECEIVES** **\$250,000 DONATION FROM CELEBRITY** **BOB BARKER FOR FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS**

**Well known animal activist and wildlife philanthropist Bob Barker steps up to help**  
**marine mammal hospital with funds to repair and rebuild the facility**

**Laguna Beach, CA – December 31, 2010** – Pacific Marine Mammal Center (PMMC) announced today that in the midst of its flood crisis from the recent Southern California storms, Bob Barker answered a plea for help and has pledged to donating \$250,000 to pay for the relief efforts.

On December 22, 2010, PMMC fell victim to the worst flood damage ever experienced in the 40 year existence of the organization. Due to the heavy rains and an overwhelmed drainage system, the interior of the hospital had over 4 feet of water trapped inside. As a result, a majority of the important medical supplies and diagnostic equipment is unsalvageable and all of the Center's major appliances and cabinetry are ruined. The exterior of the property unfortunately did not fare much better, including damaged fencing, and over one foot of mud covering the majority of the premises. Because of the damage, PMMC is currently unable to accept seal and sea lion patients that are in need of medical attention. For this reason, it is imperative that the Center gets up and running as soon as possible so they can once again offer treatment to any seal or sea lion in need of assistance.

"I welcome this opportunity to help the Pacific Marine Mammal Center resume operations as soon as possible," said Barker. "However, I hope the public will continue to contribute generously to the Center to help treat the hundreds of seal and sea lion patients that will be in need of care this season."

"We are so humbled by the generosity that Bob has shown to our Center, and feel fortunate that he has come forward to help us in our time of need," said Melissa Sciacca, Director of Development for the Center. "Because of Mr. Barker's kindness, we are one giant step closer to getting our hospital for seals and sea lions back on track. We applaud his philanthropic nature, and are inspired by his kindness to animal welfare organizations." The \$250,000 donation will go towards the cost of replacing critical

supplies and equipment needed to get the Center up and running again. Once the Center is able to accept patients again, PMMC plans to name a sea lion patient "Bob Barker" and will invite Bob to help release the animal back to the ocean once it has recovered. PMMC Executive Director Colleen O'Higgins states, "We are so grateful for the generosity of Mr. Barker and the philanthropic example he sets for the community as a whole. It is critical to the staff and board at PMMC to be ever mindful of the generous contributions of our donors and to further solidify the center so that we are better positioned to carry out our critical mission."

**About Pacific Marine Mammal Center:**

Established in 1971, Pacific Marine Mammal Center is among the forerunners in marine mammal rehabilitation science. The only organization of its kind in Orange County, PMMC responds to approximately 300 marine mammal rescue calls each year. Pacific Marine Mammal Center is a non-profit organization with a mission to rescue, medically treat, and rehabilitate pinnipeds and cetaceans that strand along the Orange County coastline due to injury or illness; to release healthy marine mammals back to their natural habitat while preserving species diversity; and to increase public awareness of the marine environment through education and research.

**Pacific Marine Mammal Center is located in the large red barn at 20612 Laguna Canyon Road. For more information please contact Melissa Sciacca at 949.494.3050 or visit PMMC on the web at [www.pacificmmc.org](http://www.pacificmmc.org)**

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