

Animal care supplies collected for Eagle project

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Can you help an orphaned or injured wild animal? That's the question the boy scouts in Troop 226 were asking customers at DeCou Lumber, Petco, Kmart and Vons in Atascadero.

On Sept. 3 and 10, several scouts passed out fliers with a list of supplies that could be purchased at these businesses and donated to the Pacific Wildlife Care facility by placing the item in a collection barrel manned by the scouts.

The generosity of the customers was overwhelming. The large collection barrels were filled several times over at each of the four-hour supply drives. Items such as dog and cat food, bungee cords and rope, office supplies, baby food, cleaning supplies and more were donated.

"The generosity of people, when they are simply asked, is incredible," said Samantha Dole, the mother of Douglas Dole, the scout who led the project.

Douglas came up with the idea of doing a supply drive for his Eagle Scout project after seeing an ad in the paper for the PWC facility. They are a nonprofit organization located in Morro Bay that takes in orphaned and injured wild animals, rehabilitates the animals, and releases them back into the wild. The nature of their work necessitates a large turnover in supplies.

Douglas picked up the phone, called a PWC volunteer and asked if they could benefit from a supplies drive.

"The volunteer was very excited," Douglas said, "so I decided this was the Eagle Scout project I would do."



Douglas Dole donates items collected in the collection bins to Pacific Wildlife Care in Morro Bay.

Douglas has worked hard on the project. He has made signs describing the drive that he attached to the collection boxes and barrels. He has organized and called the boys in his troop to man the various drives. He has written letters to managers of business in Atascadero and Paso Robles asking if he can have a manned drive at their location. He has also met with several business managers to ask to leave collection barrels and boxes in their businesses. Each box and barrel has a list of needed items that can be purchased at the business and left in the collection box for Douglas to gather and take to the center.

He gathers these items for delivery once a week. Paso Robles Farm Supply, the Pet Department in Atascadero and Paso Robles, Rabobank in Paso Robles and Atascadero, and Atascadero Hay and Feed have all generously donated floor space for these collection boxes.

Douglas has also met with several volunteers at the PWC facility. They gave Douglas a tour of the facility and supplied him with detailed lists of items they need to rehabilitate the wild animals in their care.

On Saturday, Oct. 22, several of the boys from Troop 226 in Atascadero will host the last of their supply drives to benefit PWC. They will be at the Templeton Farmers' Market from 9 a.m. to noon.

To find a list of needed items can be donated to the Pacific Wildlife Care facility at this drive, go to www.pacificwildlifecare.org and go to the "rehab center" page, then click on "wish list."

*Photos by Samantha Dole:
Center Photo: Members of Boy Scout Troop 226 stand in front of Vons with a collection bin for Pacific Wildlife Care on a recent Saturday.*

