



## **International Bird Rescue Research Center**

### **Invitation to Cover**

**What:** The release of "Slash" a female pelican cruelly mutilated, her pouch cut, will be released after two months in captivity. The public is invited to this release.

**When:** Thursday, September 23, 10: 00 AM

**Where:** International Bird Rescue Research Center (for photo ops of pelicans in care)  
3601 South Gaffey, San Pedro (directions follow) Slash will be released at Cabrillo Beach approximately 10:30 AM.

### **Background:**

A young female California brown pelican, admitted to IBRRC's San Pedro wildlife hospital on July 23, 2004, will be released. Rescued in the Redondo Beach area, her pouch had been slit with a knife, from ear to ear. She endured three surgeries, hundreds of stitches and two months of rehabilitation. "Slash" has been adopted by USFWS special agent Bruce Toloski and his wife Lisa as part of IBRRC's Adopt a Pelican program. (Toloski headed the investigation of pelican mutilations that occurred in December 2002. 14 pelicans were found with their right wings broken and or/shot. He was close to apprehending the killer when he was hit by a drunk driver and spent three months in a coma.) Slash is one of 154 pelicans admitted to IBRRC this year, most young pelicans who were starving, but also pelicans who are victims of fishing/line hook injuries and human caused abuse.

**Visuals:** California Brown Pelicans are being cared for at the center and as many as 20 will be available for photographers. Release of Slash at Cabrillo Beach, approximately 10:30 AM.

**Who:** International Bird Rescue Research Center has specialized in saving birds who are victims of oil spills around the world, since 1971. Two state-of-the-art rehabilitation hospitals, one in San Pedro and the other in Cordelia (Northern California) operate 365 days a year providing care to waterfowl and aquatic birds in need.

**Contact:** Karen Benzel, Media Relations, IBRRC. 831-622-7588

**Directions to center:** Take the 405 freeway to the 110 south. At the end of the freeway turn left onto Gaffey. Just past 36th Street is Angel's Gate Park. Turn right on Leavenworth and go into the park. About a half a mile up the road is the Marine Mammal Center. IBRRC is located in the Los Angeles Oiled Bird Care & Education Center next to the MMC. Phone: 310-514-2573 or 2574. To get to the release site take 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to Via Cabrillo Marina, turn right, go past the Hilton and continue to the end. There is a parking lot before at the site.

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