WILDLIFE CARE of VENTURA COUNTY
Rescue - Rehabilitate - Release

Keep it Wild!

P. O. Box 941476
Simi Valley, CA 93065
Hotline 805-498-2794

www.wildlifecareofventura.org

Total Animal Intake 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
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WILDLIFE CARE of VENTURA COUNTY is a non-profit all volunteer organization holding permits through the California Department of Fish and Game. United States Fish and Wildlife and USDA. The organization was founded in 1994 and rehabilitates all native wildlife with the exception of bear, mountain lion and deer.

Our volunteers specialize in one or more species and operate as a team of dedicated and highly trained individuals.

We work very closely with veterinarians who provide medical care, x-rays, surgery and humane euthanasia when necessary. Beyond the immediate benefits of helping wildlife in need, WCVC provides a valuable service to the entire community by making help accessible to those who find wildlife in distress. Our mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and release, as well as educating the public on how to co-exist with our wild neighbors.
“Adapting to Life with Coyotes”

It’s not a choice, it’s a fact of life

The Original California Native

“The Coyote” was living and thriving in the vast California desert long before Cities and Suburbs were part of the landscape, being the highly adaptable intelligent creature, that he is. The coyote has learned that cities, suburbs and backyards have a lot to offer, in the way of food, water and shelter. This humanized environment has actually worked to the coyote’s advantage, the checkerboard landscape of suburbia and open areas offer an abundance of natural habitat for den sites, unsecured garbage, pet food, carrion, free-roaming cats and small dogs, rodents, fruit trees, and koi ponds all attractions to the coyote, who are quickly learning and adapting to the human-altered environment.

With increased coyote activity in urbanized areas come increased numbers of interactions with people. The vast majority of these encounters are just sightings, most people are unaware that they are even neighbors with a coyote, as coyotes generally tend to keep a low profile and travel under the cover of darkness to avoid humans. Once the coyotes start losing their fear of people, which happens each time they enter into a situation where they have no need to fear you. They will become more brazen and venture out during the daylight hours and enter into situations they normally would avoid had they maintained their natural fear.

Coyotes will prey on cats and small dogs, in the absence of their normal prey, since these companion animals are similar in size to their natural prey. And the coyote does not distinguish between “Pet” and “Prey.” Yet often communities assume that a coyote that has killed neighborhood cats or dogs will work its way up to children, although very rare attacks on people have occurred, primarily when coyotes have lost their fear and begin to directly associate people with food. In fact, a wild coyote that has maintained his fear of people is far less of a threat than the dog next door: “Domestic pet dogs kill an average of about 20 people per year. Coyotes are not considered a disease threat. Outbreaks of rabies in coyotes are rare and are not commonly implicated in the transmission of the disease to humans or domestic animals. In fact, coyotes often reduce the density of foxes, who are more likely to be infected with the rabies virus, and thus can serve as a buffer against the disease.”

Coyotes play a key role in maintaining the health and integrity of a variety of native ecosystems, including chaparral, grasslands and wetlands. Primarily by regulating the numbers of smaller predators, such as fox, raccoons, skunks, and feral cats through competitive exclusion and direct killing. Research in the fragmented urban habitats of coastal Southern California indicates that the absence of coyotes allowed smaller predators to proliferate.

The pack’s strong social hierarchy generally limits breeding to the alpha pair, who produces a single litter of four to eight pups each spring. If unexploited the number of coyotes in a pack, is largely a function of the habitat’s carrying capacity, the abundance of food regulates coyote reproduction, survival, and dispersal of juveniles with in their territory.

The benefits of non-lethal management techniques allow coyotes to maintain their important role as keystone predators, keeping rodents and smaller predator populations in check.

6 coyote pups were rescued from their den in Tehachapi ...the mother was shot, all were released in November 2007
It's all about space, boundaries and behavior we as a community need to be constantly reminding ourselves and our wild neighbors where those boundaries lie. A coyote who has lost his fear of people is a danger to everyone, and eventually a dead coyote.

Non lethal methods that have proven to be successful in deterring coyotes the proper implementation of these methods, especially in combination, can significantly reduce, and potentially eliminate coyote activity on your property.

- Electric fencing, guard llamas and donkeys, and various scare tactics and frightening devices
- Put garbage at curb side the morning of pick up
- When composting, use enclosed bins rather than exposed piles. Avoid adding dog or cat waste, meat, milk, or eggs, as well as any food containing these products
- Pick up fallen fruit off the ground
- Do not feed the birds or other wildlife
- Vegetable gardens should be protected with heavy duty garden fences or be enclosed by a greenhouse
- Eliminate artificial water sources and koi ponds
- Outdoor lighting triggered by motion sensors
- Motion-activated sprinkler systems
- Fence your property or yard. The fence must be at least six feet tall with the bottom extending at least six inches below the ground and/or a foot outward Existing fences can be augmented with a Coyote Roller™ system
- Clear away bushes and dense weeds near your home
- Close off crawl spaces under porches, decks, and sheds
- Keep animals inside at night
- Do not allow companion animals to roam
- Do not leave dog or cat food outside

Walk your dog on a leash at all times. If confronted by a coyote, pick your small dog up so the two of you become one unit, yell and wave your arms continue this behavior until the coyote retreats.

If your yard does not have a fence, use a leash while on your property to keep your dog close to

- Spay or neuter your dogs. Coyotes are attracted to and can mate with, unspayed or unneutered domestic dogs. Male coyotes will be attracted to un-spayed female dogs or their urine, and un-neutered male dogs may be lured away.

Note: Trapping and relocating coyotes is not recommended and illegal. Disruption of family units can cause orphaned juveniles to seek easy prey, such as small dogs and cats. Furthermore, other coyotes will move into the vacated area.
Wildlife Myths

Fact is so much more awesome than fiction!

Old wives’ tales, or stories passed down from generation to generation, are little more than superstitions and fabrications originating within vivid imaginations, some possibly rooted in truth or born from experience to keep the idle hands of children out of harms way. Perhaps as old as language itself, they are part of our oral tradition, originating long before pen and ink, books and movies, and certainly before the Internet. Some probably have survived through the ages because they offer some comfort and direction and others have survived because there was no need to question them... until now.

As children, we are most likely to believe what we are told, but even as adults, we may fall prey to the superstitions of our forbears. How many of us have gone out of our way to avoid walking under a ladder, gotten a little shiver when a black cat crossed our path, or still knock on wood for luck? These superstitions for the most part are harmless, but the myths and superstitions that surround a great percentage of the animal world and how people interact with them is anything but harmless. Where animals and nature are involved, fact is so much more awesome than fiction. Mother Nature has provided us with the answers... let’s follow her lead and teach the next generation the facts... and let go of the tales.

Myth 1: If you touch a baby bird the parents will abandon it.

Fact:
With few exceptions (vultures, for instance), birds have a limited sense of smell. Parents will not abandon baby birds which have been handled by humans. The best thing humans can do if a baby bird falls from its nest is to put it right back in the nest. The parents will return to feed it. Watch carefully from a distance: They will feed their chicks several times an hour, from dawn ‘til dusk.

Myth 2: A baby bird on the ground who cannot fly needs help.

Fact:
Unless the baby is injured, it is a normal stage of development for fully feathered baby birds to be on the ground. They do not need to be in the nest any longer for warmth so they are out exploring and exercising their wings. The parents will find them on the ground by the sound of their chirping and continue to feed them until they are able to fly.

Myth 3: Feeding bread to geese and ducks is a great family activity.

Fact:
Bread is bad for birds because it offers no nutritional value whatsoever. Severe health problems and nutritional deficiencies are caused by bread. Birds have actually starved to death on a diet of bread. Hand-feeding leads to self-destructive dependency because ducklings and goslings won’t learn how to find native foods on their own.

Myth 4: If you find a fawn alone, she has been orphaned.

Fact:
It is very common to see fawns alone because the mother will leave her babies in one place and only visit two to three times a day to avoid attracting predators. Until the fawn is four weeks old, you will rarely see the mother with the baby. Instead, the fawn relies on camouflage and lying still for protection during this vulnerable period.

Myth 5: If you see a raccoon during the day, he must be sick or rabid.

Fact:
Raccoons are opportunistic and will appear whenever food is around. Although they are normally nocturnal, it is not uncommon to see raccoons during the day when pet food is outside, especially in spring and summer when mom raccoons have high energy demands due to nursing their young cubs. Only if the animal is actually acting disoriented, sick or injured such as circling, staggering, or screeching -- in addition to being seen by day -- should a local animal control officer or Wildlife Rehabilitator be contacted.

Myth 6: If you get close to a skunk, it will spray you.

Fact:
It is actually extremely difficult for a person to get sprayed by a skunk. These animals only spray as a last resort to defend themselves when they are surprised, such as when a dog runs up and grabs them. Because skunks cannot “reload” very fast, they will not waste their only line of defense. Instead, they will stamp their front feet as a warning for you to back off.
Myth 7: Bats get tangled up in your hair if they fly near you.  
Fact:  
Bats navigate and hunt insects by using a complex sonar-like system called echolocation, a process in which sound waves are emitted through their nose and mouth and when the sound hits an object, it bounces back. This tells the bat the size, location and the direction the object is moving. The bat’s swooping flight patterns and long wings have led to the misconception about bats flying into your hair. With that kind of navigation equipment on board, why would a bat want to get into your hair?

Myth 8: Cats belong outdoors and it is not fair to keep them inside the house.  
Fact:  
Letting cats roam outside subjects them to the dangers of the outdoor world, particularly being hit by cars and hunted by coyotes. Outdoor cats, even well-fed ones, spend much time mangling and killing wildlife like ground-nesting baby rabbits, lizards and millions of baby birds who have not yet learned to fly. Cats can live happy lives indoors.

Myth 9: Opossums are just large rats  
Fact:  
Opossums are marsupials, not rodents. Quite the contrary rodents are a favorite part of their diet. A marsupial mother carries her babies for 2-3 months in a pouch and then 1-2 months on her back. In fact, they are North America's only marsupial.

Myth 10: Opossums are dangerous and carry rabies  
Fact:  
Opossums are very resistant to rabies and many other diseases most likely due to their low body temperature. Opossums are also harmless, gentle, creatures who can hardly defend themselves. Their hissing, teeth-baring, and drooling is not a sign of rabies but rather a bluff to scare off potential predators. When that doesn’t work, they go into a shock like state (“play possum”).

Myth 11: Releasing white doves or pigeons at weddings is safe  
Fact:  
These pigeons and doves are raised as pets and are hand fed and conditioned to be dependant on people. If they don’t make it back to their lofts, they do not have the skills to survive in the wild and will most likely starve or become easy prey to hawks and other predators.

Myth 12: I live in the city so I do not have to deal with Wild Animals  
Fact:  
Having bats in your belfry, owls in your chimney or raccoons in your attic is no longer just the stuff of jokes or fiction. With continuing loss of wild areas that provide habitat for wildlife, critters have moved into cities and suburban areas looking for places that are warm, quiet, safe from predators, and near food and water where they can raise their young. Most urbanized wildlife is nocturnal, so we are usually unaware of it’s presence...until their is a problem. For example, some critter decides your house is a pretty cool place to live and raise a family. The time to protect your home against an unwanted guest is BEFORE it has taken up residence. The following measures will help avoid the need for trapping and killing intruders (which often leaves orphan babies behind):

- Repair any loose tiles or shingles on the roof (raccoons will tear off loose tiles to gain entry into the attic)
- Trim tree branches away from the sides and roof of the house
- Cap the fireplace chimney
- Keep rain gutters cleaned
- Close crawl spaces under eaves
- Close crawl spaces under the house
- Enclose open areas under patios and sheds
- Feed pets indoors; do not place pet food outdoors
- Secure trash can lids (bungee cords or other means)

Migratory birds are protected by law and disturbing an active nest is a federal offense. Therefore, before clearing brush, trimming trees or closing up an area of your home, be alert to the possibility that there may be an active nest therein. This is most likely to occur during the breeding season, which is specific for each species of wildlife. In California it can be year round because of the mild climate so the best time to trim trees and secure your home is in the fall.

amr 2007
On October 29, 2007 Wildlife Care of Ventura County took in a female Bobcat from the Castaic Animal Shelter with severe burns to her face and ears, the tissue on the external portion of her ears was necrotic and her eyes were infected and sealed shut, the pads of her feet were also burnt.

She was given a full exam by Conejo Valley Veterinarians and determined to be in overall good health but with a guarded prognosis regarding the viability of the tissue on the outer portion of her ears. Until the necrotic material sloughs off, we do not know how extensive the tissue damage is. Luckily, her hearing and sight have not been affected and she is responding well to treatments which consists of flushing the wounded areas and her eyes 3x a day also a course of antibiotics 2x a day.

It is unusual for us to have received this bobcat. We do not usually receive any wild animals from the fire zones because they either flee into safer areas, if they are able to, or, sadly, they perish in the fire. Bobcats will usually find a safe place in which to hide, which seems to be what this bobcat did, judging by the nature of her injuries. We did receive another bobcat from the same area with very similar injuries, but that bobcat died under anesthesia.

When we have environmental disasters, it’s important to remember that the wild animals that do survive and flee the area, continue to be affected for months, sometimes even years, to come. They must search out new territories able to support them that aren’t already occupied. If you live in an area that is affected by a natural or even an unnatural disaster and notice a wild animal taking shelter in your yard, the best thing to do is just leave it alone… it will eventually move on.

If, however, the animal is injured, call your local Animal Control or a Rehabilitation facility.

This Bobcat made an incredible recovery despite all the odds against her and we were very optimistic about her release but injuries to the achilles tendon on both hind legs prevented her from fully extending or standing on her hind legs.

The damage to the tendons was not noticed until she was moved to her outdoor enclosure and able to fully move around,

We were not able to release her.
Please Help! Your tax deductible donation goes directly to the rehabilitation and release of the wild animals in our care. It is extremely expensive to care for injured and orphaned wild animals. We are only able to provide this service because of generous donations like yours.  We greatly appreciate your help.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP........

Volunteers
Transporters
Cash donations
Gift Cards :
Home Depot
Office Depot
Costco
California Cage works
Animal Carriers
Heating pads
Towels
Hand Towels
Water bottles
Dawn dish soap
Simple Green
Antibacterial hand sanitizer
Laundry soap
Disposable gloves
Welding gloves
Paper towels
Sponges
Bleach
Potted Plants
Astro turf (perches)
Food Supplies:
Science Diet Puppy
Pedigree dog food
Cat food (kibble)
Nuts & Seeds
Wild bird seed
Pigeon seed
Monkey Chow (zupreem)
Baby Food (Beef)
Pedialyte
Esbilac (puppy formula)
KMR (kitten formula)
Exact (hand feeding baby formula)

Orphaned baby tree squirrel

Your donation of $25.00 or more will entitle you to continue to receive our semi-annual newsletter. WCVC is a non-profit organization and all contributions are tax-deductible.

$25.00 $35.00 $50.00 $100.00 Other Amount

JOIN OUR TEAM and be a part of the solution!

I would like to help care for wild birds or small mammals in my home.
I would like to assist other rehabbers a few hours a week.
I would enjoy transporting animals within my work route from local agencies to rehabilitators.

NAME: 
ADDRESS: 
PHONE NUMBER: 

Please mail to: WCVC
P.O. BOX 941476
SIMI VALLEY CA 93065

Thank you to everyone who continue to support our efforts!

Center Supplies:
Shade Cloth
Digital video camera
Laser printer
20' - 22' foot construction trailer

Medical Supplies:
Vetwrap
Stainless forceps
Q tips
cotton tipped applicators
Gauze 2 x 2
Cast padding
tape
Sutures:
5-0 Vicryl Rapide synthetic absorbable
4-0 PDS *II synthetic absorbable

Syringes: (sterile)
Insulin ½ cc + 1cc
1cc, 3cc, 10cc, 20cc, 35, 60,
Needles: (sterile)
27g, 26g 3/8, 25g 5/8, 20g
Feeding tubes and Urethral catheter
Kendall Sovereign French size 3, 5, 10, 12,

Medications:
Lactated Ringers
Normosol
Sodium Chloride 0.9%
Sterile water
Triple antibiotic ointment
Neosporin
Non steroid eye ointment
Gentamicin ophthalmic drops
Injectable Baytril 100mg/ml
Baytril 22.7 mg/ml inj. + tabs
Panacur paste or granules
Injectable Ivermectin
Bactrim
Metacam Oral suspension

To make a tax deductible donation: Please call

Simi Valley 805-581-3911
or
Burbank 818-571-9833
Thank you FRIENDS OF WCVC for your continued support!

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Conejo Valley Veterinarian Clinic
Shirley Blanchard
Bear Thompson, DVM
Jean Marie Webster
Los Angeles Zoo
Audubon Society of W. Hollywood
L.L. Novy, DVM
Shirley Richardson
Mary Sherwood
Elizabeth Shiffrin
Martin Knight
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Marsha Ryback
Anne Hetu
Gargarina Babic

Piersie Campbell
Daria Di Benedetto
Thousand Oaks Rotary
Full O Life
Mari Mortland
Jason Bold
Brian Cangiano
Googalune
Dallas Dansby
James & Ingrid McNamara
Gia Beans, Inc.
Sharron Elms
Jean-Marc & Victoria Chapus
Andrea Sher
Grace Getzen
Larie Richardson (North Star Minerals, Inc.)
Susan & John Bee DVM

If you have found an injured or orphaned wild animal:
- Keep them warm, dark, and quiet
- Do not feed or offer the animal water
- Call a Rehabilitator

805-498-2794