U R B A N W I L D L I F E

Wildlife Care of So Cal

A Wild Animal Rehabilitation and Release Organization

P.O. Box 941476 Simi Valley Ca 93065 www.wildlifecareofsocal.org 805-581-3911

Please Help Us Continue to Care for California Wildlife.

2017

Franky on Intake

Understanding + Compassion

A Whittier neighborhood had dubbed this guy with the name "Frankenstein" he was popular all over Facebook and breaking hearts because he looked so bad but because of the diligence, compassion and knowledge of a few we were able to catch him! ... This guy took close to 5 months of rehabilitation because he was in such bad shape..he would have died a slow death if he did not get treatment. The number of Coyotes with mange is growing. There are a few schools of thought as to the cause; poison,deficient immune system,diet are a few but no definitive study has been done. Mange is very easy to treat especially if caught early. They take up residence in communities most likely because they get ostracized and can't keep up with the pack.

There have been no reports of these coyotes with mange being aggressive.

Read his story in the DoDo mag!

https://www.thedodo.com/in-the-wild/coyote-mange-

Franky just before release he was released into open space about 2 miles from where he was caught.

WE CANNOT DO THE WORK WE DO WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT.

Rehabilitation is very expensive: permits, food, medications, caging the list goes on. Your donation of $30.00 or more will entitle you to continue to receive our educational newsletter!

Consider donating to wildlife as a gift, or in a trust for that wildlife fan in your life.

$30.00 _____ $50.00 _____

$75.00 _____ $100.00 _____

$200.00 _____ $500.00 _____

Other Amount $_____

WCSC is a volunteer, non - profit, organization and all contributions are tax-deductible.

77-0390358

PLEASE MAIL TO : Wildlife Care of So Cal P.O. Box 941476
Simi Valley, CA 93065
or Paypal
www.wildlifecareofsocal.org

There are NO City, State, or Federal agencies that rescue, rehabilitate or even fund the rehabilitation efforts of our injured and orphaned native wild animals. We have to pay them in permit fees to help these native wild animals.

Communities love the fact that there are places they can call when they find an injured wild animal, that are knowledgeable and can give the animal a second chance - but there is a cost.

Individuals are making the difference. Without our help they will be euthanized.

LEARNING TO LIVE WITH URBAN WILDLIFE

I've got a raccoon in my yard! What do I do?

A raccoon running through your yard or an opossum on your wall is no cause for alarm. Do not overreact by assuming that a wild animal in the vicinity is a threat to pets or property. In the vast majority of cases such animals are utterly harmless, and are likely just passing through. Most wild animals that have not been desensitized by close contact with people are genuinely afraid of humans and will keep their distance. By taking steps to make the area uninviting we force them to move on to other areas in search of food and shelter. If you do choose to live peacefully with these critters, you should avoid feeding as this will create a dependence and desensitize wildlife to humans.

Remember that the person down the road may not be as compassionate as you are. Unfortunately, wild animals that have lost their wariness and have more contacts with humans tend to have shorter life spans. That's because they tend to be our problem or "nuisance" wildlife. They frequently are killed, poisoned or trapped. Relocating wildlife is illegal.

Compassion through Education

Misinformation and our own lack of knowledge about the temperament, nature and needs of urbanized wildlife has led to exaggerated fears, particularly of disease, and subsequently to much unnecessary animal suffering. Fortunately, there is no need to resort to painful traps or deadly poisons in our encounters with these wild animals. We can, with a little effort, learn to peacefully coexist. In fact, armed with some basic knowledge about their habits and a little ingenuity we can outsmart these critters without bringing harm upon them, nor guilt upon our consciences.

Mange

Mange is a type of inflammatory skin disease caused by tiny parasitic mites. There are two basic types of mange, sarcoptic and demodectic, which have separate causes and symptoms. Though mange is rarely fatal, knowing how to recognize this disease early makes treating the animal much easier in the long run.

Sarcoptic mange usually causes frantic itching Which causes relentless scratching or chewing at its skin to relieve the itch. The animals skin, becomes irritated from the constant scratching and biting and can easily become infected. The itching can even be so severe that it distracts the animal from necessary behavior like eating, drinking, and resting. Severe cases of sarcoptic mange that result in secondary infections from bacteria or yeast can cause a white, crusty surface to form on the animal's irritated skin. In addition, animals with severe secondary infections will also often suffer weight loss, possible anemia, run a fever, and/or have enlarged lymph nodes. All which can compromise the immune system.

While sarcoptic mange itself can't kill an animal, their health can deteriorate quickly if they get a serious infection or stops eating or sleeping.

Localized demodectic mange, the least serious variety, usually results in one or two "thin" or bald patches in the animal's hair. Usually, this small patch will not appear inflamed or irritated and will not cause serious itching, unless left untreated.

Juvenile Raccoon:

Admitted with 2 severed hind legs. According to a biologist with the Dept. of Fish and Game, very indicative of a non padded illegal leg hold trap. He was reported to have been seen for 2 weeks dragging his legs,before being caught.

BAD ANIMALS or RESOURCEFUL ONES

"Let nature take its course ...Just not in my backyard?"

Wildlife are very resourceful. Unlike trapping and the use of poisons, animal proofing is a safe and effective solution to human/wildlife conflicts. By eliminating the attractions that bring the animals to your home in the first place, and by your behavior or erecting physical barriers, you can condition the animals to stay away.

In many cases, by the time the homeowner discovers a wildlife problem and begins to seek out solutions, the offending animal has already been conditioned that his actions are being positively rewarded with food etc.and can safely be repeated without a consequence. You need to change his thinking, which will change his behavior.

Example #1

The last 3 times the raccoon raided the trash can there were no dangers (dogs, bright lights, and easy access) to discourage him. So he has inadvertently been conditioned that it is safe to return a 4th time, maybe with babies in tow - teaching them that this a good and safe spot to eat .

Example #2

A homeowner has been feeding ducks that have been visiting his property since the fall. However, it's now spring and the ducks are seeking out nesting sites and soon there will be baby ducklings under foot and swimming in the pool. He originally conditioned (or trained them) to return to his property for food by feeding them; now he must recondition them if he wants the behavior to stop.

Example #3

A coyote has been frequenting a particular neighborhood under the cover of darkness, catching mice,squirrels and eating carrion,drinking from pools and sprinklers. Then someone spots him during daylight hours and makes a hasty retreat into the house.

The coyote's behavior is being inadvertently positively reinforced by the food he is finding, and by the human's hasty retreat, he learns he has nothing to fear.

Coyotes by nature are not nocturnal. They are canines and are active during the early daylight, afternoon and evening hours. The only reason we usually see them at night is because they are fearful of humans and their activities during the day. When we see them during the day in our neighborhoods, they are becoming desensitized and more comfortable with us. They are extending their territories and we are allowing it. In the animal world it's all about space, boundaries and behavior, and we need to reinforce to them in a language that they will understand that our yards are off limits. The longer wild animals are allowed to continue their undesirable behaviors, the longer it will take to recondition them.

Identify what is attracting the animal to the property. Usually it is a multitude of factors, so make sure all are corrected at the same time. Have some negative reinforcement props by the door and on hand. When the animal enters your yard or space, keep a safe distance away. Make yourself appear larger and louder than he is so he has no choice but to make a hasty retreat, and you need to continue your loud, wild and crazy behavior until you get the proper response from him: a quick retreat.

You have just reclaimed your territory.

All this applies unless the animal is injured or orphaned in that case call a rehabilitation facility for advice.

Prevention

- Bring in all cat and dog food.
- Bird feeders are an attraction and will attract more than just your favorite birds. They will attract rodents and their predators and other seed eating critters.
- Secure trash can lids with bungee cords.
- Bring in all small pets and cats well before sunset and don't let them back out until a few hours after sunrise. And go with them. In some densely populated coyote areas small animals should not be outside alone.
- Secure chicken coops and small animal pens with wire tops and underground wire bottoms to prevent entry from digging under. Pets should have access to safe quarters 24 hours a day. This should include a garage,building or home
- Koi ponds: Submerge chicken wire around the edge of the pool, about 1 foot distance from the side of the pool into the center. Normally raccoons will not step onto a platform that is not stable.
- Sprinkle cayenne pepper sprinkled in area that raccoons are digging up
- Professionally cap chimneys.
- Close off passages to areas beneath porches, attics, cellars or other crawl spaces with heavy-duty wire mesh.
- Prune or remove tree limbs hanging over or close to the building; cut back overgrown vines clinging to walls and eaves.
- Remove all unnecessary outdoor clutter such as old newspaper, paper bags, woodpiles, etc.
- Keep your yard well manicured and free from overgrown plants and grass.
- Use pet doors at your own risk; if conventional ones are used, bolt them tightly at night.
- Build catio (patio) enclosures for small animals

Negative reinforcement props:

noise makers

coffee can filled with small nails or rocks (taped so it can be thrown)

whistles

air horn

radio

automatic motion lights

automatic motion sprinklers

large dogs

power nozzles attached to a hose

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SAY NO TO POISON --

Don't go for the bait... it's killing our wildlife.

Newsletter **Spring 2017**

Wildlife Care of So Cal

WCSC (formerly Wildlife Care of Ventura County) was founded in 1994 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) all volunteer organization, which holds permits through the City of Simi Valley, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife and US Department of Agriculture.

Our organization is permitted to rehabilitate 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, WCSC provides a valuable service to the entire community by making help accessible to those who find wildlife in distress, and educating the public on living with our wild neighbors.

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Wildlife Care of Southern California/Facebook

Our mission is to rescue, rehabilitate, and release, wildlife as well as educate the public on how to coexist with our wild neighbors.