



# California Wildlife Center

## 2017 Annual Report



CWC cared for 426 Eastern Fox Squirrels in 2017

California Wildlife Center plays a critical role for Los Angeles and Southern Ventura County wildlife. One of the most advanced and comprehensive wildlife rehabilitation facilities in Southern California providing emergency care, medical treatment and rehabilitation to injured, ill and orphaned native wild animals, CWC is the only facility in Los Angeles County permitted to rehabilitate deer fawns, coyote pups, and nestling and fledgling songbirds.

CWC is also the only organization with a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Marine Mammal Stranding Agreement for a 35-mile stretch of the Southern California coastline, extending from the Ventura/Los Angeles

County line. CWC cares for 160+ unique animal species.

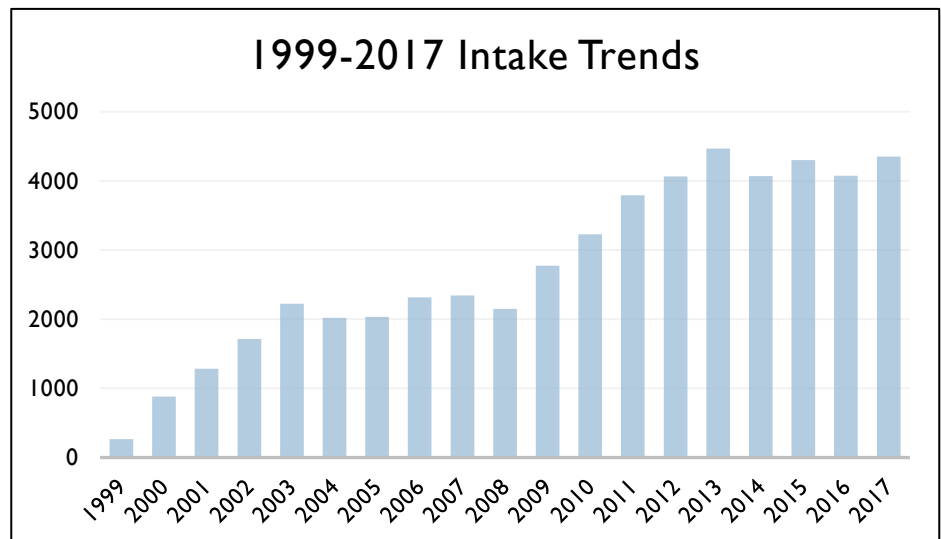
CWC offers services at no charge for the 10.4 million people who live in its service area and receives no sustained government funding, relying on donations from members of the public and support from foundations and corporate grants. With the human population increasing, so will interactions that have deleterious effects on wildlife, further necessitating CWC's services.

### **Patient Intakes**

California Wildlife Center served 4,355 animals in 2017. This is a 6% increase over the previous year. The Animal Care Department saw 4,092 patients; 3,068 birds, 1,009 land mammals, 13 reptiles and 2 amphibians. In 2017, this department served an average of 10 new patients a day, with as many as 45 new per day during the busiest time of year. Upon arrival, every injured or ill animal received a thorough intake examination to determine a treatment course, then was stabilized in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), before medical or surgical treatment by the in-house veterinarian. In emergency cases, medical procedures were performed immediately. The ICU accommodated 855 patients in 2017, where they were closely monitored and medicated until they recovered sufficiently to be moved to outdoor enclosures to complete rehabilitation.

CWC also cared for 87 patients of species susceptible to rabies, including one bobcat, four gray foxes, and 37 striped skunks. Rabies vector species are held in the Rabies Vector Unit for quarantine during treatment.

The Orphan Care Unit (OCU) saw hundreds of infant squirrels, nestling and fledgling birds, and opossum joeys in 2017. Eastern fox squirrels were the most common patient (426) with mallard ducklings a close second (421). Animal orphans receive species-specific formula multiple



See page 5 for a complete list of number of animals rescued by species.

times a day until they are weaned and transferred to outside enclosures, and ultimately released.

The Marine Mammal Department cared for 264 animals in 2017, including 174 California sea lions and 76 northern elephant seals. This was a 27% increase over the previous year. The Marine Mammal Rescue Team brings the animals from the beaches of Malibu\* to CWC where the animals also receive intake exams. The treatment and rehabilitation of sea lion and seal pups occurs in the Marine Mammal Rehabilitation Facility on site.

Wildlife was rescued from 169 Southern California cities and neighborhoods; most rescues were within the Los Angeles City limits, with the City of Malibu a close second. See page 6 for a complete list of rescues by city.

The ultimate goal for all these animals is return to the wild. Since human contact is so stressful, special care is taken to minimize human exposure and prevent possible imprinting or habituation that may impede the healing process.

### **2017 Successes**

A highlight of California Wildlife Center's 2017 operational activities was a rebuild of the Marine Mammal Rehabilitation Facility. The original facility was constructed in 2013 in response to unusually high numbers of stranding California sea lions. This facility was intended to last only for six months. When sea lions kept stranding in large numbers after that first year, CWC opted to continue to rehabilitate them onsite; however, after four years, the facility was in need of replacement with something built to last. The new pens are made with pressure-treated lumber and include improved drainage systems, creating a more durable structure that can withstand up to the wear-and-tear of caring for marine mammals for at least ten years.



L to R, Executive Director Jennifer Brent helps actress Shannen Doherty and Malibu City Councilmember Jefferson Wagner cut the ribbon on the new marine mammal facility.



The Feathers, Flippers, and Fur Family Picnic was filled with food, friends and fun!

Malibu Bluffs Park was the site of one of 2017's two principal fundraisers, the inaugural "Feathers, Flippers, and Fur Family Picnic." This fundraiser highlighted cuisine from the Malibu area and featured members of the Chumash tribe as well as the Malibu Monarch Project. Entertainment included a local band, a magician, face painting and a bean-bag toss tournament. There was also a silent auction featuring unique items and entertainment packages from the Southern California and Malibu areas.

California Wildlife Center was also fortunate to have Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo donate their talents for a benefit concert in the fall; "An Intimate Evening with Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo" was held at the Canyon Club in Agoura Hills to a sellout crowd. Actress Shannen Doherty was the evening's host; Little Caesar and Brandon Jenner also performed.

### **Volunteers**

CWC offers a comprehensive and rewarding volunteer program designed to maximize the bridge in gaps in the area of service need and delivery for the ICU, Orphan Care Unit and the Marine Mammal Department, as well as facilities, events, and administration. CWC recruits, trains and maintains a volunteer base of 250 volunteers who, in 2017, contributed 29,715 hours, a 24% increase over 2016, for a personnel cost savings of approximately \$250,000.

Volunteers are required to attend two hours of continuing education in the areas of wildlife conservation and rehabilitation presented by experts in the field. In 2017, they attended seminars on Wildlife Anatomy, Neonatal Mammals, Bat Rehabilitation, Domoic Acid in Sea Lions, Small Mammal Conservation, and Coyotes.



Volunteers help a variety of animals like this great horned owl.

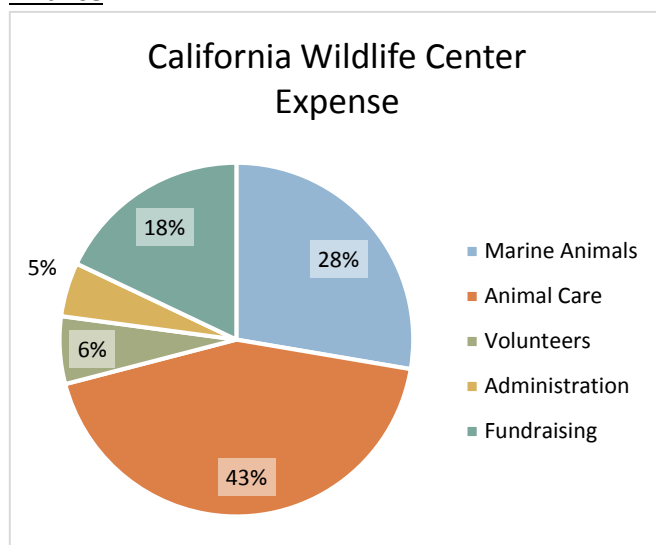
\* CWC's marine mammal stranding response is conducted under a Stranding Agreement between the National Marine Fisheries Service and CWC and issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

## Education

CWC participated in 14 public events in 2017, educating more than 2,000 people about safely coexisting with wildlife. CWC provides educational resources to more than 150,000 people annually through partnerships with local media sources, public outreach, and informational mailings; and echoed across social and digital media, reaching 1.7 million people both locally and world-wide. CWC fielded over 30,000 phone calls in 2017, including calls regarding sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife, concerns about nuisance animals, and general questions about native fauna.

Dedicated to the future of veterinary medicine and wildlife rehabilitation, CWC provides a variety of professional training programs, including wildlife and marine mammal rescue and rehabilitation internships, a wildlife medicine externship as an introduction to wildlife medicine for prospective veterinary students, as well as preceptorship for students undergoing their fourth-year clinical veterinary rotations. These programs provide a unique opportunity for those interested in wildlife rehabilitation and medicine to receive hands-on experience in the field. CWC engaged 23 interns, 26 externs, and 11 preceptors in 2017. More than 450 total prospective and current veterinary students from the most prestigious schools and three continents have learned the techniques necessary to care for imperiled wildlife by training with CWC veterinarians. This highly-sought-after program allows students to apply what they have learned to aid wildlife conservation efforts all over the world.

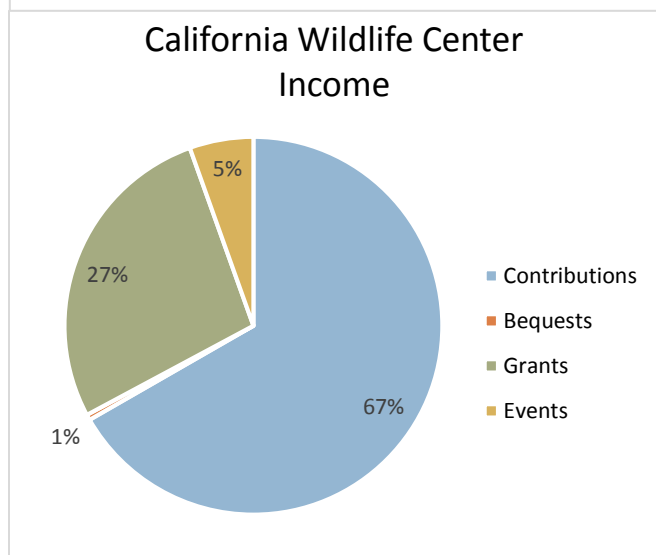
## Finance



### *Expense*

Animal patient care comprised 71% of the 2017 budget: 43% in Animal Care and 28% in Marine Animals. These expenses included medication, food, veterinary supplies, facilities upgrade and construction, transport and staff to care for the animals.

Eighteen percent of the budget was allocated to fundraising, including the cost of operating two fundraising events. Six percent of the budget was spent supporting the 250+ volunteers who donate their time. Five percent was dedicated to administrative costs which includes organizational oversight.



### *Income*

California Wildlife Center is a public nonprofit reliant on donations from members of the community to keep its doors open. In 2017, CWC operated at an 8% surplus.

Contributions from 1,469 individuals and organizations comprised 67% of the 2017 income. Foundation and corporate grants provided 27% of the total income, dedicated primarily to Animal Care and Marine Mammal projects. Two fundraising events, the “Feathers, Flippers, and Fur Family Picnic” and “An Intimate Evening with Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo” concert raised five percent of the 2017 income. Bequests made up the remaining one percent.

## **Challenges**

The majority of injuries sustained by wildlife continue to be human-related, with many patients suffering from exposure to rodenticide poisoning, firearm injuries, collisions with cars, or interactions with pets. CWC educates the public in the hope of reducing negative human impact on wildlife.

In 2017, CWC received 6% more animals than in 2016. The increase is due to intake policy changes at other animal triage sites within Los Angeles County.



California sea lion suffering from Domoic Acid toxicity.

In 2017, CWC experienced an influx of California sea lions impacted by domoic acid, a neurotoxin produced by algae and accumulated in the primary fish stocks that comprise their diet. Exposure to this compound affects the brain, causing seizures and possibly death. The Marine Mammal staff responded to 65 reports of sea lions suffering from this toxicity in 2017, compared to none the previous year. Some animals were rescued and transported, but for many, the effects of the toxin were too advanced. This situation did provide a unique opportunity for CWC to educate the public about this toxin and its causes which may include climate change and reactions to agricultural runoff. Staff also

took samples from deceased animals and submitted them to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration database so the broader effects of domoic acid on sea lion populations may be studied.

California wildfires displaced many wild animals in 2017, some of which were brought CWC for treatment. Unfortunately for most, their injuries were too severe to survive. The loss of habitat and food sources from the fires is likely to result in a future increase of animals suffering dehydration, malnourishment, related ailments and diseases.

## **2018 Goals**

- Increase release rates of challenging songbird species.
- Continue to elevate the level of patient care.
- Further the animal enrichment program currently in place.
- Construct enclosures to allow patients more rapid progress through rehabilitation.
- Continue to enhance the marine mammal filtration system to provide a safe habitat while conserving water.
- Initiate program to perform surveys of three key seal and sea lion haul-out areas.
- Increase the specialization of seasonal Animal Care employees by having them focus on clinical orphan care only.



Rescuing marine mammals can be challenging and requires lots of training.

- Enhance the professional relationship with the public by having designated interns answering calls concerning wildlife.
- Increase the number of volunteers capable of leading a marine mammal rescue.
- Coordinate meeting times with LA County lifeguards and State Park employees to discuss marine mammal strandings.

California Wildlife Center continually strives to increase capacity by adding and expanding enclosures, utilizing temporary buildings and increasing the number of staff and volunteers as well as improve its services to both wildlife and the humans who rescue them.



This rabbit suffered burns to her ears and toes in the Thomas Fire, but healed under CWC's care and was released.



CWC gives animals like the American Crow enrichment items such as this food puzzle to help them use skills they need in the wild.

## Patients by Species for 2017

Acorn Woodpecker	16	Common Yellowthroat	1	Pacific Loon	25
Allen's Hummingbird	228	Cooper's Hawk	100	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	4
Alligator Lizard	1	Cormorant	1	Peregrine Falcon	10
American Black Bear	5	Costa's Hummingbird	1	Pied-billed Grebe	5
American Bullfrog	1	Coyote	14	Red-breasted Sapsucker	3
American Bushtit	21	Dark-eyed Junco	15	Red-eared Slider Turtle	1
American Coot	15	Deer Mouse	7	Red-necked Phalarope	1
American Crow	251	Desert Cottontail	218	Red-shouldered Hawk	15
American Kestrel	3	Desert Pocket Gopher	1	Red-tailed Hawk	52
American Robin	7	Domestic Goose	1	Ring-billed Gull	1
American White Pelican	1	Domestic Quail	1	Risso's Dolphin	1
American Wigeon	1	Double-crested Cormorant	37	Rock Pigeon	18
Anna's Hummingbird	94	Eared Grebe	7	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1	Eastern Fox Squirrel	426	Ruddy Duck	3
Band-tailed Pigeon	138	Eurasian Collared-dove	5	Rufous Hummingbird	1
Barn Owl	15	European Starling	1	Russian Green Tortoise	1
Barn Swallow	8	Fox Sparrow	3	Sabine's Gull	1
Belted Kingfisher	2	Golden Eagle	1	Savannah Sparrow	1
Bewick's Wren	10	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	Say's Phoebe	1
Big Brown Bat	1	Gopher Snake	1	Sharp-shinned Hawk	4
Black Phoebe	24	Gray Fox	4	Short Beaked Common Dolphin	6
Black-crowned Night-heron	1	Great Blue Heron	1	Snowy Egret	1
Black-headed Grosbeak	7	Great Egret	1	Song Sparrow	3
Black-Necked Stilt	1	Great Horned Owl	40	Sora	3
Blue-winged Teal	1	Greater Roadrunner	3	Southern Alligator Lizard	3
Bobcat	1	Green Heron	3	Spotted Towhee	5
Bonaparte's Gull	2	Guadalupe Fur Seal	2	Striped Skunk	37
Botta's Pocket Gopher	14	Heermann's Gull	1	Surf Scoter	3
Bottlenose Dolphin	1	Hermit Thrush	9	Townsend's Warbler	1
Brandt's Cormorant	17	Herring Gull	1	Turkey Vulture	1
Brandt	1	Hooded Oriole	8	Unidentified Hummingbird	6
Brewer's Blackbird	2	House Finch	233	Virginia Opossum	195
Brewer's Sparrow	1	House Sparrow	8	Virginia Rail	2
Broad-footed Mole	2	House Wren	10	Vole	1
Brown Pelican	15	Lesser Goldfinch	48	Warbling Vireo	3
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	Lesser Nighthawk	1	Western Bluebird	10
Bufflehead	1	Little Brown Bat	1	Western Fence Lizard	6
Bullock's Oriole	2	Long-tailed Weasel	1	Western Grebe	24
Burrowing Owl	6	Mallard	421	Western Gull	68
California Ground Squirrel	38	Merlin	1	Western Kingbird	4
California Gull	19	Mexican Free-tailed Bat	3	Western Meadowlark	3
California Myotis	1	Mitred Conure	1	Western Screech Owl	10
California Pocket Mouse	1	Mourning Dove	397	Western Scrub Jay	33
California Quail	11	Mule Deer	10	Western Toad	1
California Sea Lion	174	Nanday Parakeet	2	White-crowned Sparrow	13
California Towhee	47	Nightsnake	1	White-faced Ibis	1
Canada Goose	21	Northern Elephant Seal	76	White-throated Swift	6
Caspian Tern	1	Northern Fulmar	2	Wilson's Warbler	2
Cedar Waxwing	8	Northern Mockingbird	163	Wrentit	3
Chukar Partridge	1	Northern Raccoon	26	Yellow Warbler	5
Clark's Grebe	2	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	4	Yellow-chevroned Parakeet	1
Cliff Swallow	33	Norway Rat	6	Yellow-rumped Warbler	18
Common Loon	12	Nuttall's Woodpecker	3		
Common Merganser	1	Oak Titmouse	6		
Common Murre	7	Orange-crowned Warbler	1		
Common Poorwill	13	Osprey	3		
Common Raven	72	Pacific Harbor Seal	3		



## Rescues by City for 2017

Acton	3	Kern County	3	San Dimas	2
Agoura	3	La Cañada Flintridge	32	San Fernando	1
Agoura Hills	90	La Crescenta	14	San Gabriel	5
Alhambra	8	La Mirada	1	San Marino	15
Altadena	28	La Puente	2	San Pasqual	1
Angeles National Forest	1	Lake Balboa	13	San Pedro	5
Arcadia	23	Lake Sherwood	1	Santa Barbara	4
Arleta	8	Lake View Terrace	1	Santa Clarita	15
Arroyo Grande	2	Lakewood	1	Santa Monica	105
Atwater Village	1	Lancaster	9	Santa Paula	6
Azusa	1	Larchmont	2	Santa Rosa	1
Bel Air	1	Laurel Canyon	1	Santa Rosa Valley	2
Bell Canyon	7	Lawndale	1	Santa Ynez	1
Bellflower	1	Lincoln Heights	1	Saugus	2
Beverly Hills	40	Lomita	4	Shadow Hills	1
Brentwood	4	Lompoc	1	Sherman Oaks	92
Burbank	44	Long Beach	10	Sherwood Forest	1
Calabasas	111	Los Alamitos	1	Sierra Madre	5
Camarillo	15	Los Angeles	508	Silver Lake	1
Canoga Park	42	Los Feliz	2	Simi Valley	158
Canyon Country	5	Malibu	496	Soledad Canyon	1
Carpenteria	1	Manhattan Beach	2	Somis	5
Carson	1	Mar Vista	1	South Gate	1
Castaic	2	Marina Del Rey	12	South Pasadena	10
Century City	1	Mission Hills	3	Stevenson Ranch	2
Chatsworth	68	Modesto	1	Stoner Park	1
Compton	1	Montecito Heights	1	Studio City	37
Conejo Valley	1	Monrovia	20	Sun Valley	7
Covina	2	Monte Nido	1	Sunland	6
Culver City	31	Monterey Hills	1	Sylmar	17
Del Mar	1	Monterey Park	5	Tarzana	44
Downey	1	Montrose	1	Temple City	4
Duarte	2	Moorpark	35	Thousand Oaks	235
Eagle Rock	3	Newbury Park	50	Toluca Lake	3
East Los Angeles	1	Newport Beach	1	Topanga	30
Echo Park	3	North Hills	13	Torrance	5
El Monte	2	North Hollywood	69	Tujunga	7
El Segundo	4	Northridge	64	Unknown	275
Encino	56	Oak Park	22	Upland	6
Fair Oaks	1	Oakbrook	1	Valencia	22
Fairview	1	Ojai	44	Valerio	1
Fillmore	4	Orange	2	Valley Glen	4
Fremont	1	Oxnard	8	Valley Village	12
Gardena	4	Pacific Palisades	28	Van Nuys	86
Glendale	95	Pacoima	11	Venice	50
Goleta	1	Palmdale	5	Ventura	16
Granada Hills	46	Palos Verdes	4	Westchester	1
Guadalupe	1	Panorama City	12	West Hills	78
Hermosa Beach	1	Pasadena	216	West Hollywood	16
Hidden Hills	3	Pico Rivera	3	West Los Angeles	7
Highland	2	Playa Del Rey	9	Westlake Village	77
Hollywood	12	Playa Vista	5	Westwood	2
Hollywood Hills	2	Port Hueneme	2	Whittier	1
Huntington Beach	2	Porter Ranch	25	Wilmington	3
Inglewood	3	Redondo Beach	4	Winnetka	20
Irvine	2	Reseda	47	Woodland Hills	206
Kagel Canyon	1	Rosemead	1		

## Thank You California Wildlife Center Donors

### **Cumulative Giving**

#### **\$500,000 and up**

Billie N. Tyrrell Living Trust

DJ&T Foundation

Marjorie Dye

Anonymous

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#### **\$50,000 and up**

California Community Foundation

DJ&T Foundation

NOAA – Prescott

State of California

Richard Zamora

#### **\$25,000 - \$49,999**

Dorrance Family Foundation

Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation

Anonymous

#### **\$10,000 - \$24,999**

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Julie Kavner

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CMA Foundation

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Future Beat LLC

Lawrence Foundation

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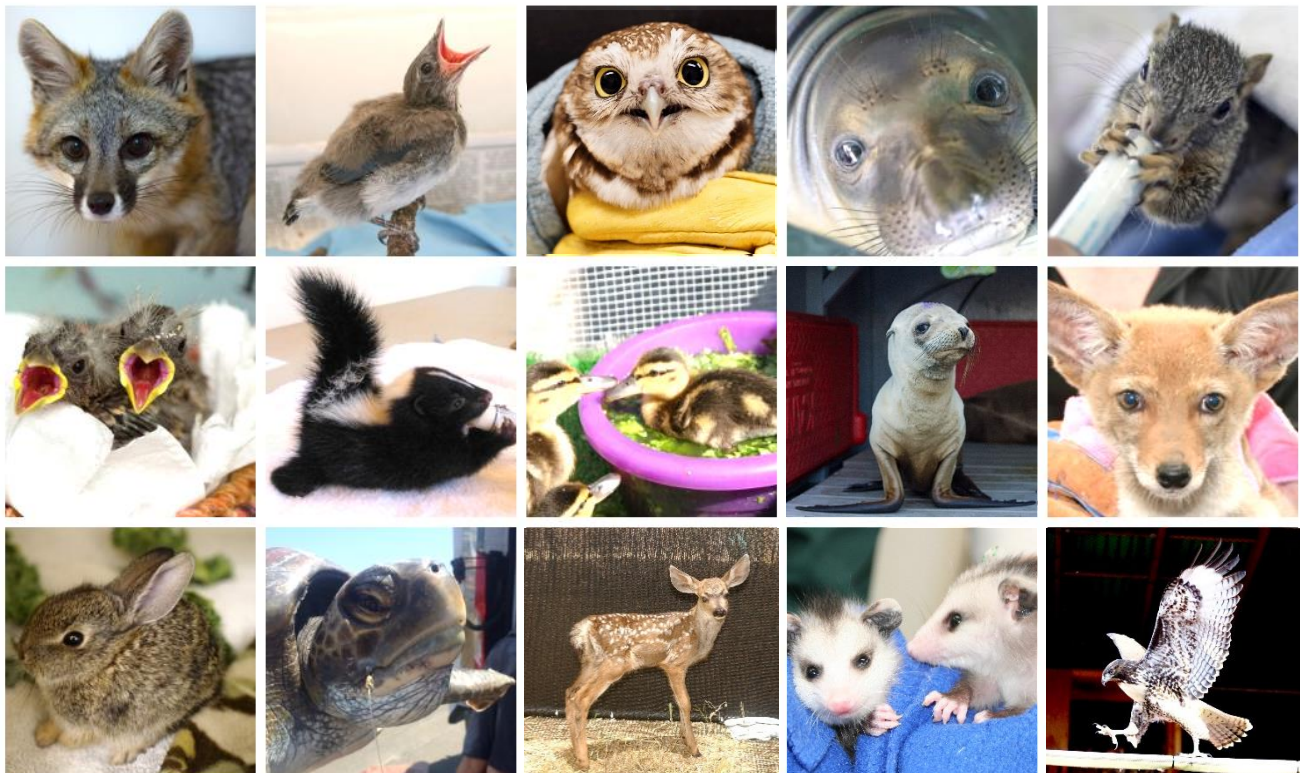


Nestling Northern Mockingbirds



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