



CALIFORNIA
WILDLIFE
CENTER

Wild Times

Dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of Southern California's sick, injured and orphaned wildlife

An Amazing Transformation!

Bobcat affected by mange receives care

By Staff Veterinarian Dr. Lorraine Barbosa

In late October of last year, a two-year old Bobcat was admitted to our Animal Care Hospital, emaciated, dehydrated, and hypothermic. He had a severe dermatitis along his head, ears and neck, and a moderate dermatitis across the rest of his body, leaving him bald and crusty in several areas. After a physical exam and blood and fecal analyses, he was given medical



Photo by Lorraine Barbosa

This emaciated and sickly Bobcat was brought to California Wildlife Center for treatment of exposure to rat poison which led to a severe case of mange.

treatments including fluids, antibiotics, and a gastrointestinal dewormer. A skin scrape examination revealed *Notoedres cati*, a mite that is the most common cause of mange in Bobcats.

Notoedric mange is caused by a reaction to the burrowing of mites into the skin, which leads to intense itchiness, and commonly, self-mutilation and bacterial skin infection. Such infestations are often so severe that they will lead to death of the animal if left untreated. Thus, this bobcat was started on a regimen of medications to treat his mite infestation, as well as Vitamin K.

Why the Vitamin K, you ask?

Interestingly, there is a strong association between mange infestations and anticoagulant rodenticides, commonly known as rat poison. Before 2002, mange was only reported in Bobcats as isolated incidents. From 2002 to 2006, a large-scale mange outbreak took place in California. According to one study it was so severe that it actually reduced the California Bobcat population, causing a genetic bottleneck. During an investigation into the decline, testing revealed that anticoagulants were present in 100% of Bobcats with mange. Furthermore, many animals were found to be exposed to three or more different anticoagulant rodenticides. In Bobcats, it is suspected that repeated small doses of anticoagulant rodenticides may harm immune function and increase their susceptibility to mange infestation.

Anticoagulant rodenticides disrupt the production of certain proteins



Photo by Gayle Uyehara

A healthy view of the once emaciated and sick Bobcat just before it was released to the wild. After treatment for mange and exposure to rat poison, the Bobcat was mange-free, had begun to regrow his fur, and had regained weight and energy.

involved in the blood clotting process that are dependent on Vitamin K for their synthesis. As these proteins are depleted, the blood loses its ability to clot and the animal dies due to hemorrhaging (bleeding out). Treatment with Vitamin K allows the production of blood clotting proteins to resume, preventing hemorrhage and subsequent death.

After almost two months of treatment, the bobcat was mange-free. He began to regrow hair along his body and face, his skin irritation resolved, and his weight and energy level improved dramatically. He was released back to the wild on December 14th



A microscopic view of the mite found from a scrape of the Bobcat's skin determined it was *Notoedres cati*, a common cause of mange in Bobcats.

Photo by Lorraine Barbosa

Inside: Read about a Peregrine Falcon tied to weights for a good reason
Mother's Day is approaching, find the perfect gift for Mom

Welcome CWC's New Exec. Director

I am very happy to join California Wildlife Center as their new Executive Director as of late January 2016. The staff and volunteers have been incredibly welcoming and have impressed me with both their skill level and dedication to our mission.



Photo by Jeff Hall

CWC Executive Director Jennifer Brent.

and companion animals have in common are fiercely dedicated advocates whose mission to speak on behalf of those without a voice.

It's an exciting time to join CWC and I look forward to seeing the organization grow and flourish. I would also like to thank all of you who have supported CWC and continue to prioritize our vision for the future of native California species.

Education at CWC

California Wildlife Center is committed to educating the public about wildlife and all the great work that takes place each and every day at the center. Educating the public takes place through internships and externships, outreach to community groups, and attendance at public events. The Education Programs at California Wildlife Center are generously sponsored by Southern California Edison. For more information on



coexisting with wildlife, internship or externship programs, volunteer opportunities, or events, please visit www.cawildlife.org.

Going Green!

Future Issues of Wild Times will be sent out via e-mail in order to reduce our footprint. Make sure CWC has your up-to-date email address. Visit www.cawildlife.org and click on "Sign Up for Email updates" at the bottom of the page.

How "Creancing" Helped a Falcon Fly

A rehabilitation technique helps speed up the muscle building process of an injured falcon

By Senior Hospital Technician Jenn Guess

Peregrine Falcons are sleek and powerful birds that hunt prey from above, diving from perches or high in the sky in aerial strikes. They are the fastest member of the animal kingdom and are able to reach diving speeds of over 200 miles per hour. Therefore it is no surprise that a broken wing would be detrimental to the survival of a Peregrine Falcon.



Photo by Diana Mullen

"Creancing" is a technique where weights are attached to anklets, shown above, on a bird to create drag and quickly build up flight muscles to speed up the recovery process.

On the afternoon of November 9th, 2015 a member of the public came to California Wildlife Center with an injured Peregrine Falcon that they had found on the ground in Van Nuys. The initial exam revealed that the falcon had a broken left wing. The falcon had hit something so hard that one of the main bones in the left wing (the ulna) was broken in multiple places and there was an open wound at the fracture site with severe swelling and bruising around the injury. California Wildlife Center technicians stabilized the wing with a wing wrap, hydrated the bird, and started her

on various medications in order to help with pain management and ward off any potential infection.

Dr. Barbosa took radiographs of the wing to get a better look at the injury. After analyzing the fracture in the radiographs, it was decided that the best course of action would be to continue stabilizing the wing with a wing wrap and continue providing pain management and antibiotics.

Shortly after, it was determined that the wing was strong enough to begin gentle physical therapy. The swelling was starting to go down and the bruising was mostly resolved. Over the next few weeks the falcon received periodic gentle physical therapy. On December 10th, 2015, one month after her original intake, it was decided by Dr. Barbosa that the falcon's injury had healed enough for the bird to move to one of CWC's large outdoor aviaries. Out in the aviary the falcon would have more room to move around and could start to build up its flight muscles again.

On January 1st, 2016, Dr. Tom assessed the patient and decided that it was time to creance the Peregrine Falcon. When a patient is creanced, a long thin line with a weight on one end is attached to anklets on the bird. The patient flies into the air and pulls the weight. This process helps to quickly build up flight muscles and speeds up the recovery process. The falcon was creanced four times over the course of two weeks, and each time she got stronger and stronger. Eventually the Peregrine Falcon was pulling the same weight a Red-Tailed Hawk would pull, and Red-Tailed Hawks are about twice as big as Peregrine Falcons.

On January 15th, 2016, more than two months after the original intake, the Peregrine Falcon was released back to its home in Van Nuys.

Petite Pinniped Patient

By Marine Program Manager Jeff Hall



Photo by Jeff Hall

The smallest Northern Elephant Seal ever rescued by CWC's Marine Department weighs in at a shocking 22 kilograms (about 48 pounds). She was rescued from Westward Beach in Malibu at the beginning of March of this year. A healthy Northern Elephant Seal at this age should weigh between 60 to 80 kilograms (that's 130 to 175 pounds), so she has a long way to go. A specialized diet of fish gruel and vitamins, followed by up to 12 pounds of fish a day, will help pack on the pounds before her release!

Volunteer of the Season

By Hospital Manager Denys Hemen

Glenn Ellis began her career at CWC in 2003. After attending a presentation given by CWC staff she couldn't wait to volunteer in our baby room. She spent one year volunteering in our nursery, caring for baby squirrels in her home. She spent one year volunteering in our nursery, caring for baby squirrels in her home. It was a process that required permits from California Fish and Wildlife. Glenn has been doing this now for 12 years and is currently our Squirrel Team Leader. This "squirrel momma" takes in over 30 baby squirrels at one time during the peak of baby season. Some of these orphans are fed up to 6 times a day with 4 hours in between each feed. These marathon days include midnight feeds and 4 am start times! As if squirrels were not enough, in 2006 Glenn decided to throw baby raccoons into the mix, taking up to 15 of them in a single season! When she has time this superwoman also volunteers at the West Valley Pantry, The Colony Theater, and is the treasurer of the Woodland Hills Woman's Club.

Glenn has helped to save the lives of hundreds of orphaned squirrels and raccoons throughout her career. Thank you for being such an important part of our organization and for being a kind and generous person.



Photo by Jennifer Brent

CWC Squirrel Team Leader Glenn Ellis cares for over 100 squirrels per year.

Help Support CWC

Help support the programs at California Wildlife Center. There are so many ways you can show your support for California Wildlife Center.

Become a Member

California Wildlife Center Members are committed to the mission of CWC and demonstrate this through an annual membership. Each CWC Member receives: an invitation to our annual "Wild" events; subscription to Wild Times newsletter; CWC emergency hotline magnet; a Member Decal; and additional benefits based on levels (see below).

Membership Levels:

\$50 Cool Cats

\$100 Birds of a Feather

\$250 Deer Friends

\$500 Wise Owls

One ticket to The Wild Brunch

Recognition in annual publication (donation value = \$460)

\$1,000 Rescue Rangers

Two tickets to The Wild Brunch

Recognition in annual publication (donation value = \$920)

\$2,500+ Wild Bunch

Four tickets to The Wild Brunch

Behind-the-scenes tour of the Center

Recognition in annual publication (donation value = \$2,340)

CWC Members also receive exclusive invitations to Members Only Events. Join now to receive your invitation!

Sponsor an Animal for Mother's Day!

Show your support of California Wildlife Center and your love for your mother by Sponsoring an Animal in her name!

Your mother will receive: a Sponsorship Certificate in her name with any additional message you would like to add; a color photo of the animal being sponsored; and an Animal Fact Sheet. You may also add a plush version of the animal you are sponsoring for an additional \$20.

Animals Available for Sponsorship:

Hummingbird \$50

Gray Squirrel \$75

Opossum \$100

Northern Flicker \$150

Owl \$300

Bobcat \$500

Fawn \$750

Sea Lion \$1500

Visit www.cawildlife.org and click on Support CWC to purchase your Membership or Sponsorship today!

WildTimes

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This publication is sponsored by
SoCal Edison.

CWC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
We do not receive any local, state or federal
funding. Please make a donation today!
Tax ID # 95-4580790



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Backyard Birds

Learn how to help backyard birds with these helpful tips

Backyard birds need our help. Each year free-roaming cats (both pets and feral) kill billions of birds. Yes, that's billions with a "B". The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has a website that is crammed full of helpful hints. Their website is www.allaboutbirds.org and it is worth a look. Here are some tips to help our backyard feathered neighbors:

- Keep feeders away from windows to reduce collisions. Window glass kills at least 100 million birds every year in the United States.
- Wash and disinfect all feeders and bird baths at least once every two weeks.
- Place "bird tape" over windows to reduce the likelihood of collisions. Bird tape is visible to birds but hardly noticeable to humans. Buy bird tape at www.abcbirdtape.org.
- Watch out for fledgling birds during the spring and summer. Most birds learn how to fly from the ground up. Just because it can't fly doesn't mean it's injured.



Photo by Jamie Pelayo

Keeping bird feeders clean is an important part of caring for wildlife just like this Allen's Hummingbird.

www.cawildlife.org

Hummingbird Feeders

Because the sugar water, which hummingbirds love, is also a perfect place for bacteria to grow, hummingbird feeders require a little extra care. Follow these hummingbird feeder tips:

- Change sugar water at least every three to five days.
- Clean feeder at least once a week with hot water and a brush. Do not use soap.
- Disinfect with a solution of nine parts water and one part bleach. Rinse well and air dry.