



California Wildlife Center

December 23, 2022



The Top Three Social Media Posts of 2022

If you follow us on Facebook (California Wildlife Center), Instagram (@cawildlife), or TikTok (@californiawildlifecenter) you will get to see some of our most recent patients and stay up to date on what is happening at CWC. In case you've missed some of our posts, here are the three most popular videos from social media in 2022.



By far, our most popular post in 2022 was from September 3rd that showed our Marine Mammal Response Team rescuing a California Sea Lion who was suffering from domoic acid toxicity. Domoic acid is a naturally occurring neurotoxin that is produced by certain types of algae. When this type of algae "blooms" the toxin is consumed by sea life, works its way up the food chain, and eventually causes harm to marine mammals and sea birds. If an animal has been exposed to the toxin for a short period of time, the negative effects can usually be reversed with fluid therapy and an ample supply of clean food free from domoic acid.



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The runner up for most popular post was on February 25th that featured a nestling Great Horned Owl being hand fed with a puppet. Young owls habituate very easily, and so it is critical that we use every precaution when working with them. The use of species-specific puppets is an important tool we have to prevent young owls from associating people with food and positive reinforcement. Staff and volunteers also make sure to keep patients' faces covered during exams and rechecks, and we are as quiet as possible when handling these sensitive animals.



On September 24th we posted our third most popular video, highlighting an adult male Great Horned Owl who was found in Rancho Palos Verdes, unable to fly. The patient was suffering from a long list of issues including left eye trauma, a puncture wound on his left side, bruising and swelling near the left shoulder, a wound on his chest, and trauma to the right leg and foot. With so many injuries on one side, we suspect that the patient was hit by a car.

The Great Horned Owl is currently in a large flight aviary where he is continuing to recover from his injuries.

Your support and donations have given these patients, and thousands more, a second chance at tomorrow. It is not too late to make a tax-deductible contribution to help continue our life-saving work in 2023!