



# California Wildlife Center

## December 26, 2022



### 188 Days at CWC



Every year in the spring we start to receive calls about orphaned and injured Mule Deer fawns. This year the first fawn was admitted to CWC on April 7th. The young female was found disoriented and roaming through traffic in Sherman Oaks. Luckily this patient did not have any major injuries, and hospital staff got to work stabilizing the thin and dehydrated deer.

Mule Deer are some of the most sensitive animals we work with here at CWC, and we have a long list of protocols we follow to make sure they stay wild while in our care. We limit human interaction while working with the deer by wearing camouflage hooded ponchos and observing them using installed cameras throughout their enclosure. The restricted contact is important when raising young fawns to cultivate their wild instincts and natural fear of humans. New fawns are bottle fed and quickly learn to drink off a bottle rack. This decreases human contact during feeding and prevents an association with food and people. Once rack trained, they are moved to a larger outdoor enclosed area where we provide fresh foliage, a specialized dry diet, and water. We use secret latch doors and chutes while feeding the fawns in order to limit interaction with them. All of these precautions are critical, especially when considering how long these patients tend to stay at CWC.



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Just a few weeks after the first deer was admitted, a second fawn was brought to our facility from Lompoc. Once the week-long quarantine ended, the two fawns were combined. It is very important that deer are raised with others of their kind in order for them to socialize, feel safe, and reduce the chance of habituation.

Throughout the spring and summer, we continued to receive calls about orphaned fawns and by the beginning of July we were raising a herd of six young deer. They all received daily support from hospital staff and volunteers until their eventual release on October 12th. That means the first fawn, from Sherman Oaks, spent a total of 188 days in care which makes this Mule Deer the patient who stayed at CWC the longest in 2022!

You can help wildlife, like Mule Deer fawns and thousands of other animals, by making a tax-deductible donation to CWC this holiday season! Visit [cawildlife.org](http://cawildlife.org) for more information.