



California Wildlife Center

Patient of the Week

June 30, 2023



Deanna feeds a California Ground Squirrel

Volunteers at California Wildlife Center

It's Volunteer Appreciation Week! While we are grateful to volunteers every day, this week we have had special activities to recognize and thank the 272 active volunteers who positively impact our patients and facility. It is no exaggeration to say that volunteers are the backbone of our organization. Without their selfless contributions of time, energy and expertise, we would not be able to fulfill our mission of rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing wildlife back into their natural environments. Since June 2022, volunteers have donated over 26,000 hours of time to California Wildlife Center!

As part of volunteer appreciation week, Volunteer Coordinator Jasmine Regalado (who started as an ICU volunteer in 2016 and was hired in 2023) planned a burrito party. Woot woot! Volunteers munched on some delicious burritos while they took a break from feeding Mourning Doves or rescuing California Sea Lions.

California Wildlife Center is actively looking for more volunteers to join in our mission! As a volunteer, you will have the opportunity to support animals by creating diets, assisting with laundry, feeding animals, rescuing marine mammals, or helping administrative staff. If you are interested in joining our great team and passionate about aiding wildlife, go to: <https://cawildlife.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer/>

Volunteer Highlights:

Although everyone at CWC shares the same passion for wildlife and conservation, we wanted to spotlight a few volunteers:

Harleen started as an intern in the beginning of June 2023 with the ICU team. Her favorite moment at CWC so far has been being able to feed the fawns and administer medication. When asked what her most challenging moment at CWC has been, she said that "she is getting over her fear of snakes and CWC has been great exposure therapy!" Harleen's piece of advice to new volunteers is, "I was really nervous because I was scared that I wasn't ready, but the team is so strong and helpful that you get the hang of things quickly!"

Deanna has been a volunteer in the Orphan Care Unit (OCU) since 2017 and has donated 800 hours as of this week! Deanna says that new volunteers "shouldn't be afraid to ask questions; everyone is nice!" Deanna's favorite thing about working at CWC is caring for the California Ground Squirrels.



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Katie first completed an internship in OCU and then a second one with the Marine Mammal department. After her internship ended, she continued as a Marine Mammal volunteer. Her favorite part of working with the Marine Mammal team is “seeing the different personalities of the elephant seals develop as they become healthier and continue to grow bigger.” In the Fall, Katie will be headed to UC Davis for Veterinary School! She stated, “My experiences with wildlife here at CWC gave me confirmation that this is the area that I want to go into as a veterinarian student.”

Every release, every rescue, and every animal given a second chance at life serves as a testament to the unwavering commitment of volunteers at CWC. Once again, thank you to all our dedicated and passionate volunteers at CWC.