



California Wildlife Center

Patient of the Week

August 4th, 2023



Bobcat

Bobcat

In late June, a member of the public discovered an unconscious adult male Bobcat on the side of the road in Topanga Canyon. Acting carefully and swiftly, they transported him to CWC. During a thorough examination our hospital staff determined that the patient was having difficulty breathing and radiographs showed that he had sustained a pelvic fracture. We suspect that the injuries were the result of being hit by a car.

The Bobcat's fragile state demanded close monitoring and intensive care to give him the best chance of recovery. Our dedicated staff worked to address

the patient's respiratory issues by placing him on oxygen during his initial evaluation. Since the bobcat exhibited hind limb deficits, he was placed in a smaller enclosure to limit his movements. Within a few days, our staff started seeing some signs of improvement. The bobcat's breathing improved, heart rate remained steady, and he started to respond to sounds and stimuli - showing signs of awareness.

As the Bobcat gradually stabilized, he was moved into a larger enclosure to allow him the space to exercise and regain his strength. The patient has been in our care for more than 28 days and is continuing to make improvements.

Bobcats have shown remarkable adaptability in adjusting to the changing landscape of Southern California. Today, they can be found in a variety of habitats, including urban areas, suburban neighborhoods, and rural regions. These felines are primarily crepuscular hunters, meaning they're mainly active at dawn and dusk. With their impressive eyesight and keen sense of hearing, they stalk and pounce on small mammals like rabbits, squirrels, birds and rats. They are also territorial - each Bobcat will occupy 5-60 square miles depending on the availability of food and resources and the sex of the animal.

Unfortunately, this patient's situation is not unique. Human-related incidents, like car collisions, are a common cause of wildlife injuries. As human populations expand into natural habitats, these accidents are increasing. Roads cutting through wildlife spaces disrupt animal movements, leading to dangerous encounters with vehicles. Earlier in July, a Brown Bear was killed by a car on the 101 freeway between Newbury Park and Camarillo and countless Mountain Lions have been killed by cars within our service area. Littering and improper waste disposal can also attract wildlife to roadsides, further escalating the likelihood of collisions. Human activities like deforestation and construction encroach on wild spaces, forcing them into unfamiliar and hazardous territories.

The tale of this rehabilitated bobcat serves as an important reminder of the role that humans play in the well-being of wild animals. By promoting awareness, we can each take action to ensure a harmonious coexistence between humans and wildlife.