



California Wildlife Center

Patient of the Week

October 20th, 2023

CWC Current Fawn Patients



Abscess during the healing process.

We receive many calls each year in the early summer months from members of the public reporting orphaned or injured Mule Deer fawns. Sometimes the fawn is not in fact an orphan, and the mother is simply browsing nearby. However, if the fawn is calling out, thin, or has noticeable injuries, there is good probability that the fawn is on their own and in need of help or food. As California Wildlife Center is the only wildlife rehabilitation facility in all of Los Angeles County who is permitted to care for Mule Deer, we receive fawns from other areas outside of our county. There are three deer currently in our care.

We received the first female fawn on May 11th from Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network (SBWCN). The fawn arrived at SBWCN very thin, with a high temperature, had an increased heart rate, and was infected with ectoparasites. SBWCN is not licensed to raise fawns, so they transferred her to us after stabilizing her. After a thorough examination by our technicians, the patient was treated for intestinal parasites and a bacterial infection. Since arrival, the patient has consistently gained weight and her health is normalizing.



Orphaned fawn in enclosure.

The second fawn of this group of three arrived ten days later from San Bernadino County. The rescuer found the fawn slipping down a cliff while being stalked by a bobcat. This fawn was an orphaned male that arrived emaciated and dehydrated. For safety and per our CWC protocol, he was quarantined for thirteen days before introducing him to the first fawn, all while being monitored daily. He later developed an abscess and noticeable swelling on the right side of the lower jaw. The area of the abscess was cleaned, and a warm wet compress was applied. He was treated with antibiotics for about one month, which resolved the infection. Currently our patient is hydrated, active, has an excellent appetite and is gaining weight.



Two patients in fenced in area.

Our third fawn patient in this group was an orphaned female who was admitted to CWC about 20 days later from a finder in Big Bear. The patient was lethargic, emaciated, and afflicted with an infection in both eyes. After further examination by our staff, we also discovered the fawn had intestinal parasites. She was treated for the eye infections and intestinal parasites during her quarantine period and was later joined with our other fawns.

When they arrived at our center, the weight of each patient was between 2.5kg to 2.95kg. After four months in our care, they are all weighing between 22kg to 24kg. All three fawns have great appetites and are very energetic in their enclosure. They are assessed weekly for release, and we expect them to be able to return



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to the wild around the first week of November. We use a multitude of criteria when determining the release date of our fawn patients. Most importantly, the entire group must be in good body condition and old enough to survive on their own in the wild. We also pay close attention to weather forecasts to make sure that the young patients will not have to cope with wind or rain while they are becoming familiar with their new surroundings.

We at CWC feel fortunate to be able to help these incredible species and are grateful to have an expert staff that are trained to provide unique and special care for them. We are Celebrating our Deer Friends the entire month of October and you can also be a part of a fawn's recovery journey by making a donation [here!](#)