



California Wildlife Center

Patient of the Week

March 8, 2024

Baby Showers



Hummingbird

It's raining babies! Following our Spring storms, CWC received a wave of neonatal, or newly born, wild animals. These "usual suspects" of the early days of our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit department are receiving the best possible care but we'd rather their cousins stay at home in the trees if at all possible. Meet our youngest patients below, and learn a little bit about how you can help them grow up wild and free...

Hosts of Hummingbirds

Nestling hummingbirds are always among CWC's first baby birds of the season. Our most common local species are the Anna's Hummingbird and Allen's Hummingbird. They are frequently brought to CWC after their nests are trimmed out of low branches and bushes. We currently have six hummingbirds in care.



Mourning Dove

Melodic Mourning Doves

Mourning Doves aren't often known for their calls, but their soft whistles and squeaks are a constant in the chorus of sounds in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) throughout the summer. Pigeons and doves will have multiple clutches throughout the summer and often start nesting early. Unfortunately, they often nest in close proximity to "anthropogenic" or human-centered dangers. These beloved backyard residents are at especially high risk during their extended periods of time on the ground as fledglings, when they are not yet flighted and able to escape predators. We currently have three Mourning Doves in care.



Eastern Fox Squirrels

Scurries of Squirrels

There are three species of squirrel native or naturalized locally to CWC's location. Of those, the Eastern Fox Squirrel is our earliest and most frequent species. Baby Eastern Fox Squirrels are prone to lumps, bumps, nosebleeds, low body temperature and low blood sugar after falling from their nests as is unfortunately common after storms. When they can't be reunited with a parent, CWC admits these patients to join foster groups both onsite and with our homecare volunteers. We currently have 24 Eastern Fox Squirrels in care, split between homecare and our NICU.



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Observant Owlets

Owls nest in different ways, some more precarious than others. CWC's most frequent owlet admissions are Great Horned Owls and Barn Owls, fallen from locations like high stick nests and untrimmed palm fronds after high wind days. Abrasions, fractures, bruising, and low body temperature are common in fallen owlets. CWC stabilizes and cares for young owlets until they can be transferred to our specialist partners for foster care with other owls. We have had four owlets in care so far this year.

When you observe young wildlife that may be in distress...

DO

- Look for signs of their age. Are they fully feathered/furred? Are their eyes open?
- Watch them from a short distance to avoid causing distress. Can they stand and walk? Can they fly or climb?
- Take a picture or short video to send to a rehabilitator.

DON'T

- Linger near an active nest. Check babies or take a picture quickly, then back away. Parents will not return if you are nearby.
- Attempt to give food or water unless instructed to do so by a licensed rehabilitator. If a baby is too young or too ill, the wrong care can be detrimental to their outcome.
- Remove a nest or move a baby unless they are in active danger. Contact a licensed rehabilitator for instructions if you fear an animal is ill or abandoned. You can reach CWC's wildlife hotline at (310) 458-9453.