



California Wildlife Center

Patient of the Week

January 23, 2026

In Consideration of Coyotes

We received our first critically injured coyote of 2026, originally admitted by Pasadena Humane and later transferred to us for care. Upon examination, our team found multiple rib fractures and abrasions, indicating the animal was likely hit by a car.

Further examination, including radiographs, revealed that the patient's left lung was partially collapsed and bruised, confirmed the rib fractures, and showed multiple wounds across his body, the most severe being a large necrotic wound on his right wrist. Two BB pellets were also found, one in the right side of his chest and one in the back of the right thigh. Because no entry points were apparent, these are believed to be older wounds unrelated to his current injuries. While under anesthesia, the patient was given fluids, and his wounds were cleaned with antiseptic and lightly debrided (damaged tissue removed). Topical antimicrobials were applied to the wounds and then loosely wrapped to help prevent swelling.

The coyote is being treated with pain medications and antibiotics while also receiving regular wound care and cage rest. Over the last two weeks, his appetite has been slowly improving, and his wounds are beginning to heal.



Coyote patient currently in smaller enclosure to limit movement.



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Many people fear and would rather not inhabit space with coyotes. However, it is important to note that they have adapted to living closer to human spaces due to development that has fragmented their habitat. Coyotes play a critical role in maintaining healthy, balanced ecosystems and without them that system would destabilize. By naturally regulating populations of rodents and other small mammals, coyotes help prevent overgrazing, reduce the spread of disease, and limit agricultural and property damage.

One of CWC's missions is to spread knowledge and awareness of the wildlife around us. Coexisting with coyotes might look like keeping domestic cats indoors (safeguarding both beloved pets and wild birds), removing outdoor pet food and water, securing backyard gates and fences, and driving carefully on dark roads shared with wildlife. Peaceful coexistence with coyotes is possible, and it starts with small actions taken at home.

We're encouraged by our coyote patient's progress and hopeful that, with time and care, he'll fully recover and find his way home again.



Dr. Michaels examining patient and taking radiographs.