



California Wildlife Center

Patient of the Week

January 30, 2026

Nurturing New Life: Neonate Squirrels and the Power of Community

We recently received our first two neonate Eastern Fox Squirrels of the season! The pair was found together on the ground in a rescuer's backyard. It is likely they fell from their nest and were unable to reunite with their mother. After their initial exam, the two tiny patients were transferred to the lead of our homecare team, Glenn Ellis.



Glenn Ellis

Neonate squirrels, much like human infants, require round-the-clock care and typically need to be fed every few hours. While CWC is not open 24 hours a day, we are fortunate to have a dedicated network of home rehabilitation volunteers who are committed to meeting the intensive needs of these fragile, new-to-life patients.

Since CWC's opening, our homecare network has been pivotal to our success. Glenn Ellis first began volunteering with CWC in 2003 and has been unwavering in her support ever since. She has cared for thousands of young patients, and her dedication has made her an expert in neonate care.

Glenn has worked with a wide variety of species, including squirrels, skunks, and raccoons.

Neonate squirrels typically do not leave their nest until around six weeks of age and are not fully weaned or independent until closer to twelve weeks. Because of their young age, these patients require consistent heat support and syringe feeding around the clock. Once they reach an appropriate stage of development and no longer need such frequent feedings, the squirrels are transferred back to CWC. There, they are placed in groups of six and ultimately released together when they are ready to thrive independently in the wild.

Thanks to the dedication of volunteers like Glenn, orphaned animals are given not just care, but a true second chance at life in the wild. As these young squirrels continue to grow and prepare for their return to nature, we are reminded that it is compassion, experience, and commitment, so fully embodied by Glenn, that make our work possible.

Interested in learning more about Glenn and our homecare network? Check out our new short film "Heartbeat of Hope," available to view [here](#).