



California Wildlife Center

Patient of the Week

May 8, 2026

Patient of the Week - Hope for a New Pack

Coyotes are typically born in the spring and stay close to their mothers until they are developmentally ready to fully integrate into their pack (6-9 months). When a pup is found alone, that generally signals that the animal has been separated from their mother. Coyotes are very social creatures that require care and kinship from a young age. This May marked the start of coyote pup season at CWC. We currently have 3 infant pups in care!



Coyotes are highly social animals and must be raised together. CWC works with agencies across the state to establish packs for single Coyotes who are found. Establishing a pack when pups are young and in care is not only essential to fulfill their social needs but also ensures they are bonded as a group before they are released, which gives them the best chance at survival once in the wild.



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The first coyote pup patient of the season is an infant female who was transferred from Wetlands and Wildlife in Orange County. She arrived underweight with a distended abdomen, roundworms, and a tremor. She has since received medication, vaccinations against common diseases, and a nutritious diet to support her recovery.

The second and third pups, both young males, were transferred from the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network after being admitted at just 2–3 weeks old. They appeared to be abandoned and were initially placed on a formula diet. Since arriving at CWC earlier this month, they have successfully transitioned to solid food. Like the female pup, they have received deworming treatment and appropriate vaccinations.

These three pups will grow together and, over time, form a cohesive pack. In the coming weeks we expect additional pups to be introduced to the group. While in care, they will develop essential survival skills such as hunting, socializing, and relying on their packmates to thrive in the wild.

CWC raises coyote pups until they are ready for release, typically in October or November. Release sites are carefully selected in collaboration with state and local officials and are located far from human habitation.

If you come across a single pup, help is likely needed. Since Coyotes could possibly carry the rabies virus, never attempt to contain, or touch them. Instead, contact Animal Control or the Department of Fish and Wildlife who will work with a local rehabilitation center to assess if help is needed. CWC works closely with both agencies and depends on these partnerships to help orphaned and injured wildlife who are best handled by professionals.

We look forward to watching these young pups grow, bond, and discover what it means to be part of a pack.