



California Wildlife Center

Patient of the Week

July 10, 2026

Patient of the Week - The Determined Deer

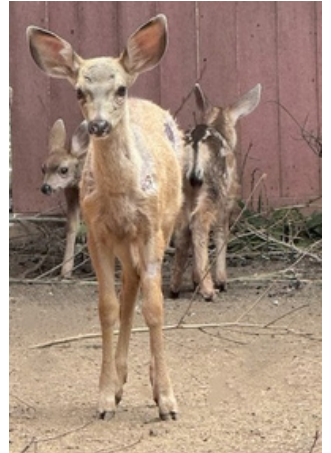
Capture myopathy is a serious, life-threatening condition caused by extreme physical exertion or emotional stress. It results in muscle damage that can ultimately lead to death. Patients such as rabbits and fawns are particularly susceptible to this condition.

California Wildlife Center recently admitted a young male fawn from Calabasas who was found trapped and struggling in a fence. The patient had been stuck throughout the night, triggering such an extreme stress response that our team determined he was suffering from capture myopathy.

Capture myopathy is not always fatal, but treatment must begin quickly to minimize stress and improve the patient's chances of recovery. Upon admission, the fawn exhibited several concerning physiological signs, including abnormally low blood sugar and elevated potassium levels. In addition, he had two large, deep lacerations on his thighs and shoulders.

The patient was started on pain medication, given a long-acting antibiotic, and placed in our deer enclosure. When treating deer with capture myopathy, it is critical to implement a hands-off treatment plan, as excessive handling can worsen the condition and significantly impact the patient's prognosis.

Since admission, the fawn has made encouraging progress. He is eating well, spending time with the other deer patients, and his wounds are gradually healing. Staff will continue to monitor his recovery from a distance to minimize stress. We are hopeful that he will make a full recovery and eventually be released back into the wild.



Mule Deer patient has joined our other fawn patients.