

CCWR News

Mission Statement

The California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators is dedicated to advancing wildlife rehabilitation and supporting wildlife in a changing world.

Spring 2018

CCWR SYMPOSIUM 2018

OCT 26-29, 2018 EARTHRISE AT IONS, SAN ANTONIO RD, PETALUMA, CA 94952

By Rachel Avilla

To begin, this venue is gorgeous! It is beautiful sprawling oak woodland in the hills south of Petaluma. There are hiking trails, labyrinths, gardens, and an outdoor spa with a sun deck. The food is mostly organic and locally sourced and made on-site. There is tea and coffee available all day long in the dining hall which will double as registration/marketplace and hangout location. The presentation rooms are spacious and have good technology. Overall, we are super excited about this venue.

There were several elements that really drew us to this location. First, CCWR has not done a retreat like this, ever, as far as I understand, so why not try it out? This year, NWRA was in Anaheim, CA, so we expect that our attendance, especially from Southern California, may be lower

than average. We really wanted to provide a unique experience that was a little more laid back than the regular hustle and bustle of a symposium, especially after a year like 2017 where many of our members had to deal with fires and their aftermath. Second, the hotel contract which is always the most difficult part of the Symposium was pretty easy with Earthrise (which was awesome!).

Of course with this venue came some constraints. There is a maximum of 150 symposium participants per day, which is a limit set by how many people the kitchen can feed. Last year, roughly 170 people attended the symposium, so that is not too far off what we usually expect. There is a maximum of 120 sleeping spaces on site with two spots for RV/van parking. There are 40 rooms that have two twin beds, so most of us will be bunking up with a friend or new friend. There are 20 other rooms that have a single queen bed for couples or a single person. There is also a shared bathroom set-up, with a few exceptions. So, it is a little on the rugged side, but not by much. Anybody that does not

want to stay on site can stay nearby in Petaluma or Novato, and we will research some alternative hotel options soon.

For now, we have access to three rooms for presentations and an outside space on both Saturday and Sunday. So, we have the ability for 28 classes (each lasting 45 minutes), three Labs, and an outdoor space all day long.

REGISTRATION LOGISTICS

We will have a few different options for registration. Unlike the usual symposium where you pay for lodging and food separately from registration, this will be a one-time all inclusive payment for everything, unless you choose to sleep off-site. We will also have a staggered registration process. We will give priority to speakers to book their rooms, and they will have the option to stay on-site for the whole symposium or commute in for one or two days.

Once we have our speakers lined up and their rooms reserved, we will open registration for anyone who wants to stay on-site. We hope that everybody can choose a roommate before registration; however we will also match people up who want a roommate.

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2018 SYMPOSIUM, CONTINUED

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Once we reach our maximum on-site goal, we will have the numbers to know how many commuters (i.e., those that come for the day but sleep off-site) we can have. Commuters will have access to the presentations all day long as well as three meals provided for them.

We have done some math, phew... What we have come up with is a reasonable cost for the different tiers. "All inclusive" covers all food, lodging, registration and banquet tickets from Friday afternoon at 4pm to Monday at 9am, but labs will be extra. Commuter costs will cover registration and three meals per day only. Earthrise was very clear that if someone comes on-site they pay for three meals as they have had "freeloaders" in the past. There is no way around including the three meals per day since they are very firm on this point.

So, here is what we have come up with for the symposium costs:

- Double Occupancy all inclusive - a twin bed in shared room -\$425
- Couple Occupancy all inclusive - \$825 (non-attending spouses already included in cost, it's a deal if you both attend)
- Single Occupancy all inclusive - \$625
- 2 Day Commuter - \$175
- 1 Day Commuter - \$100

More news to follow! Stay tuned! 

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT


by Elissa Blair

We would like to remind our members to attend Fish and Game Commission meetings if they are in your area. For a full list of 2018 meetings, go to <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2018/index.aspx>. Keeping our collective communities presence is extraordinarily important to continue to support our wildlife community's needs. CCWR's Shawnie Williams will be attending the Ventura meeting as our CCWR representative and we are looking for other people to help represent CCWR at other meetings. We would like to thank Sharon Ponsford for her years of service attending these meeting as a CCWR representative. She has decided to retire from these meetings

and the Advocacy committee to pursue other passions in her life.

CCWR has been working on flyers for the new Endangered Species Preservation Program: Native California Wildlife Rehabilitation Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund. Unfortunately we had not expected it to be on the Voluntary Tax Contribution list this year and therefore did not have great marketing in place. We ask all of our members to think about printing out a flyer that can be added to any handouts given out at the front desk so that this baby season our finders will be notified that next tax season they can help the Wildlife Rehabilitation community as a whole by

making this donation. Their \$10 could turn into \$1000 for your organization through the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) grant program. Spread the word far and wide!!!


CCWR is also writing letters in support of AB-2422. This bill would expand the states prohibition of pesticides to include a pesticide containing any anticoagulant and would also prohibit the use of a pesticide containing an anticoagulant in the entire state. This is a very very good bill for California's wildlife and needs all the support it can get. You can email, call or visit your local representatives in support of this bill!!! 

NOTICE TO MEMBERS ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is going through a few upgrades. First it is going to be renamed to *Wild Tails* and will have a new fun logo about tails associated with it.

We also will no longer be mailing out the bi-annual newsletter. It will be sent to you

via email in the Spring and in the Fall and can be viewed on the CCWR website when you are signed in. The savings for CCWR will be significant and the environmental impact of not printing paper will help the animals we all work to save.

Please make sure we have a current email address for you by signing into your account and updating your information. If you have any concerns regarding this change please send us an email at info@ccwr.org. Thank you for helping us go greener. 

CCWR'S ROLE IN FACILITATING THE PLACEMENT OF NON-RELEASABLE ANIMALS

By Rachel Avilla

In October of 2016, CCWR removed unapproved listings of non-releasable animals on our website. This change was in response to a request from Nicole Carion, our CDFW rehabilitation coordinator. After reviewing this new policy, and consulting with Nicole, the decision was made to remove this feature from the CCWR website and direct all inquiries pertaining to non-releasable wildlife to CDFW and US FWS.

This change was made to streamline the process of non-releasable animal placement. No matter what, all requests for placement and acquisition of non-releasable wildlife must go through Nicole Carion at CDFW and federally protected birds must be approved by Jennifer Brown of US FWS. These are the only agencies that can approve and issue permits for non-releasable wildlife.

Nicole keeps a detailed list of available animals and animals people are seeking to acquire. According to Nicole, the simple act of referring people directly to her via the website has improved the placement process. On a few occasions in the past, posting of a non-releasable animal on the CCWR website without prior approval from regulatory agencies caused confusion and some not so pretty outcomes. And please keep in mind, even if CDFW has approved an animal for captive placement, that does not mean US FWS has or will approve them for placement.



Recently there have been a few similar circumstances on Facebook and our Gaggle email list. These postings have also caused some confusion and some murky circumstances surrounding animals not yet approved for captive placement. On Sunday, April 8, the CCWR Board Directors, passed a vote to create a policy regarding posts pertaining to non-releasable wildlife on our CCWR Social Media and Gaggle. Effective immediately, posts seeking to place or acquire non-releasable animals will not be permitted in these forums. Members in need of assistance with non-releasable animals will be directed to our regulator agency liaisons, Nicole Carion (nicole.carion@wildlife.ca.gov) at CDFW and Jennifer Brown at US FWS. We thank our members in advance for observing this policy.

By removing CCWR's involvement in the placement of non-releasable animals, it is important to understand that this doesn't mean that CCWR's position is against educational animals or that process. It is in fact making sure that it is done in a more streamlined and appropriate fashion. It appeared that CCWR's past roles in advertising were not always helpful to the process, so we continued to try other ways to improve the process. This has finally lead us to removing CCWR from the process all together.

I think that most importantly, over the years there has been a trend to a more thoughtful process of placement, which is a very good step for animal welfare. I am sure we have all seen non-releasable animals in a miserable situation that they do not deserve. Making sure our wildlife gets the care it needs for its entire life is in everybody's best interest. An unhappy wild animal in substandard care is definitely against our mission in every way possible. As a reminder, animals in our care have the right to be euthanized if the alternative is not in their best interest.

Here is a reminder of what is in our MOU.

NON-RELEASABLE

1. Any wildlife rehabilitator who wishes to exhibit non-releasable injured or orphaned animals originating in the wilds of California will be required to obtain a Native Species Exhibiting Permit, as per California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 671.1 (b) (7). Non-releasable birds require additional permission/permit from the USFWS.

- a. Only wildlife determined to be permanently injured or non-releasable due to imprinting or habituation and is suitable for public exhibition will be considered for non-releasable status. That determination shall be made by the Department (contact the wildlife rehabilitation coordinator 530-357-3986). A veterinarian shall prepare a written document describing the permanent injury that qualifies the animal as non-releasable. A copy of the veterinarian's document shall be forwarded to the Department within 7 days of the veterinarian's classification.
- b. In the unusual event that an animal is brought into a center imprinted or severely habituated, the Department shall be notified within 72 hours after the determination has been made. If an animal becomes imprinted or severely habituated during the rehabilitation process, the animal shall be either, transferred to another rehabilitation center (other than the responsible rehabilitator), euthanized or transferred to a Department-approved Native Species Exhibiting Permittee.



WELCOME YOUR 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board voted Rachel Avilla as the new President. Ruth McDunn stayed on the BOD as Vice-President. Our new Secretary is Lucinda Adamson. Remaining as Treasurer is Veronica Bowers. Our new at-large board members are: Elissa Blair, Jo Joseph, Ashton Kluttz and Tomo Wiggans, DVM.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Rachel Avilla
President



Ruth McDunn
Vice President



Lucinda Adamson
Secretary



Veronica Bowers
Treasurer

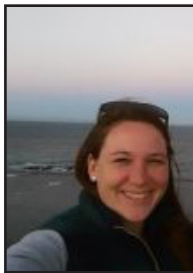
MEMBERS AT LARGE



Elissa Blair



Jo Joseph



Ashton Kluttz




Tomo Wiggan,
DVM

For full biographies on the Board of Directors, visit the ccwr website at: <https://ccwr.org/about-ccwr/board-of-directors/>

Thank you to outgoing President Vann Masvidal, having served six years on the Board and still serving with CCWR as

Advocacy and Lab Committees co-chair. We also wish to thank Shannon Riggs, DVM for her six years on the Board of Directors and her continuing to serve on the CCWR Lab Committee.

Any member is welcome to attend the board meetings. Please advise CCWR President Rachel Avilla at least two weeks prior to attending (rachel@ccwr.org). Members who wish to present a topic must understand that speaking time will be limited as the meeting agenda is typically full of items to be discussed. Also the board may call an executive session or vote during the meeting and all regular members will need to temporarily step out of the room.

We are looking for members to apply to the Board of Directors. Please visit the CCWR website for an application (Note: you must be logged in as a member to access this section). <https://ccwr.org/members-only/bodapplication/> 

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS:

Oct. 26, 2018 9am-4pm Petaluma

CDFW 2017/2018 WILDLIFE REHABILITATION MEGA MEETING NOTES

By Leslie Bale

This year, the annual regional meetings were combined and divided into two presentations: north and south. These notes are from the Southern California meeting which was a duplication of the northern meeting except for different audience questions.

The link below is a recording of the December 2, 2017, Nor Cal Wildlife Rehabilitation Mega meeting held at UC Davis. The link is provided for California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) permitted wildlife rehabilitators and their

official volunteers only. The video/ link is not intended for public viewing. ***Please do not post the link on public websites, Facebook pages, etc. or distribute to anyone other than volunteers or staff members of your organizations to protect the privacy of the presenters and organizations who gave presentations.***

To watch the video, you will need access to a dependable high-speed Internet source. It will take some time for the entire video to load onto your computer. There are toggles on the right side of the screen to allow you to either watch the presenter in the larger frame or the PowerPoint. You can also left

click on either frame to make it the main/ large frame. It is recommended that you have the Power Point in the larger frame and the presenter in the smaller frame. You should not have to load any new programs on your computer. I am not an expert, but if you find yourself having problems viewing the presentation, it is probably related to your Internet speed. If you find there are problems with viewing the video, you should go to where there is a faster high-speed Internet source.

<https://ucdsvm.mediasite.com/Mediasite/Play/607c9fffbcdc474793f0415fb92366661d>

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CDFW 2017/2018 WILDLIFE REHABILITATION MEGA MEETINGS, *CONTINUED*

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If you want to watch, the approximate start times for each agenda item is listed below.

- CDFW Wildlife Rehabilitation Update, 0:00:00
- Update on Pesticide Issues, 0:13:38
- WRMD.S Update, 0:37:28
- Avian Mortality Investigations 2017 update, 1:01:00
- Mange, 1:32:47
- Lunch Break, 2:05:00
- Update from Rehabilitation Organizations, 2:36:00
- Hummingbird ID, 3:02:00

PRESENTER NICOLE CARION, CDFW

Dates when CDFW licenses expire by region:



Region 1	10-31-16
Region 2	06-30-16
Region 3	12-30-17
Region 4	10-30-16
Region 5	03-31-17
Region 6	10-30-16

New Permittees:

- Karolyn Verville, Riverside, Sunshine Haven Wildlife Rescue
- Brooke Durham, Jumal, So Cal Parrot Rescue
- Trish Jackman, San Diego Wildlife Center, Encinitas (should be operational by spring 2018)
- Jennifer Opean, Orangewood, Redlands, Hummingbirds

A reminder that animal intake sheets must be kept for five years.

In California, animals defined as big game species are: elk, bear, bighorn sheep, antelope, deer and wild boar. Mountain lions used to be covered under big game species laws but are now covered under the Protected Species Act.

AB 1031 was supposed to be on next year's tax form but is on the 2018 tax form. It will remain operable for seven years if

\$250,000.00 in tax payer donations is met annually. Qualifying conditions to receive a portion of the AB 1031 funds are: (I think we have more than one year to meet 250,000 - say allotted time to raise?)

1. Have to be a non-profit (CDFW does not require non-profit proof).
2. Remain in compliance with the CDFW Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
3. Organization must maintain active participation in Wildlife Rehabilitation Medical Database (WRMD).

CDFW has an official press release about how the public can earmark their donations for California wildlife rehabilitation: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Tax-Donation>

PRESENTER STELLA MCMILLIN, CDFW

Investigated 135 possible pesticide deaths of wildlife. Pesticide was the Cause of Death (COD) in 29 cases:

19	Anti Rodenticides
8	Bromethalin
1	Avitrol
1	Carbofuran

There has been no legal use for carbofuran in this country for at least ten years, so it is effectively illegal.

In those cases that did not test positive for poison, other CODs were drowning, predation, Hit by Car (HBC) or unknown disease.

Anticoagulant rodenticide (AR) testing results have four categories:

1. Intoxication; shows signs of coagulopathy
2. Exposure (potentially toxic range) AR in liver toxicity range, but there was another COD
3. Exposure
4. No detection

2016 DATA

86 animals analyzed for AR exposure:

- 78% (67) were exposed to AR
- 22% (19) had AR intoxication
- 28% (24) had potentially toxic AR liver concentration levels

Species intoxicated included: coyote, gray fox, San Joaquin kit fox, raccoon, ringtail, skunk, gray squirrel, harvest mouse, Great Horned owl, and Red Shouldered hawk.

OTHER 2016 WILDLIFE AR STUDIES:

Mountain lions

- 108 tested statewide
- 102 (94%) positive for ARs
- No intoxication cases

Raptors

- 74 tested
- 85% tested positive for AR exposure
- 22% had AR intoxication

ANTEMORTEM/POST-MORTEM AR DIAGNOSIS:

Species typically a predator or scavenger (hawk, owl, fox, coyote). Less common for felids.

Less common primary exposure was found in goose, raccoon, skunk and an unlikely ungulate.

Antemortem results rarely showed neurological signs or signs of weakening. Bleeding from extremities, oral cavity, anus, and urethra were observed in cases. Pale mucous membranes were also frequently seen. Blood residues (First Generation Anti Rodenticide {FGAR}) were most commonly detected. With animals that were slow to clot, vitamin K administration may restore clotting.

Post-mortem results showed coagulopathy (bleeding, blood unclotted). No signs of other trauma. Residue of AR was found in liver.

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COMMON WILDLIFE POISONS:

Bromethalin: Is an acute toxicant used on commensal rodents and moles. Secondary exposure is rare, and usually only kills target animals. It is available for sale over the counter in many stores. Fifty four reported poisoning cases between CDFW and WildCare in Marin County involved skunks, raccoon, and less commonly, foxes and squirrels. One coyote death was reported in 2017.

Antemortem signs include neurological seizures, muscle tremors, incoordination, and hind leg paralysis. These symptoms can appear similar to those of canine distemper virus (CDV) or trauma. Cats are more sensitive than dogs.

Cholecalciferol: Is an acute rodenticide for commensal rodents. It works by overdosing the animal on vitamin D which causes mineralization in the kidneys. Cholecalciferol is usually only used by professional pest companies. There have been some reports of cholecalciferol intoxication in Island foxes on the Channel Islands. One skunk was tested positive in 2016. There may be more products with this ingredient registered soon which may necessitate actions to have it only authorized for bait stations.

Zinc Phosphide: These drab green colored pellets are scattered to control ground squirrels, moles, and gophers. When exposed to stomach acid, it releases a phosphine gas. Terminal symptoms are convulsions, then paralysis leading up to a coma. This can take up to 30 hours between exposure and death. Unless stomach contents are exposed, there is unlikely to be secondary toxicity.

Strychnine: Is only authorized for use underground for gophers. If any other animals are impacted, it would indicate that strychnine was used illegally above ground. CDFW has only investigated one case of strychnine toxicity in the past two years. Strychnine is an acute toxicant with primary exposure. Symptoms of exposure

include neurological tremors, antemortem convulsions and sometimes stiff-leggedness post-mortem. There are few clues in gross necropsy for strychnine presence. Diagnosis is confirmed via analysis of stomach contents, liver, and spinal cord. Typical incidents involve seed eating birds or what some consider “problem wildlife.”

Avitrol: Brand name for a vertebrate toxicant product with 4-aminopyridine. It is registered for use against starlings, pigeons, sparrows, and crows. It is blended with other feed and scattered in the morning when the birds are most hungry. It is intended to kill some and warn away the rest of the unwanted flock by the abnormal flapping behavior of the poisoned birds. It causes inhibition and then enhancement of the motor nervous system. By law, whoever administers the poison must remain at the scene and clean up all carcasses and remove all remaining poisoned food from the area.

Pentobarbital: Is NOT a pesticide but has been found in wildlife deaths. Pentobarbital is a veterinary euthanasia agent. The commonly used drug Euthasol is a mixture of sodium pentobarbital and phenytoin sodium. It causes a smooth, rapid onset of unconsciousness and the animal appears to be comatose. Scavengers can be victims of secondary exposure but can sometimes be successfully rehabilitated by using supportive care.

The reason pentobarbital is affecting wildlife is due to improper burial of animals or improper carcass handling.

Recent California incidents include seven turkey vultures in Marin County (2014-2015) who were successfully rehabilitated. The source of the pentobarbital was not identified but there was an outreach to veterinarians to discover the cause. More recently in Ventura County, five turkey vultures were exposed and two were successfully rehabilitated.

The CDFW outreach letter to veterinarians regarding pentobarbital can be viewed at:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/pdfs/ca_vet-pentobarbital_ventura.pdf

PRESENTER DEVIN DOMBROWSKI OR TERRA KELLY

Wildlife Morbidity and Mortality Event Alert System

*Enabling early and enhanced detection of
unusual wildlife health events*

In addition to creating a database for wildlife rehabilitators to record and track their intakes, Devin Dombrowski has developed a new application; WRMD Investigator “WRMD-S”. This application tracks Wildlife Morbidity and Mortality Events (WMMEs) creating an alert system of threats to the ecosystem. WRMD-S was developed for early detection of unusual developing wildlife events.

The positive impacts of this program are the rapid detection and enhanced monitoring of known and new threats. Known threats include avian pox, trichomoniasis, Mycoplasma sp. conjunctivitis, oil contamination, and lead poisoning. The application also detects new emerging threats that are detected through investigations of clusters of admissions presenting with similar presentation upon initial exam (e.g. neurological disease, respiratory disease, etc.).

In the spring 2017, the stranding of loons and grebes with neurologic disease from Santa Barbara, Orange, and Ventura counties was determined to be domoic acid toxicity from a harmful algal bloom in southern California.

In the fall of 2016, an outbreak of neurological disease and rapid death in Eurasian collared doves and rock pigeons in central and northern California occurred.

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Symptoms displayed were incoordination, weakness, and twisting of the neck. Post-mortem examinations and testing revealed pigeon paramyxovirus, which is closely related to Newcastle disease virus (NDV). There is concern that the infection may spillover into native mourning doves and band-tailed pigeons in California.

The diagnosis of an outbreak of neurological disease in rock pigeons in the San Francisco Bay area revealed an emerging protozoan parasite (*Sarcocystis calchasi*). This was the first detection of the parasite in free-flying birds in California. The definitive host in the United States is unknown. In Europe, the Goshawk is the definitive host.

The next steps in developing WRMD-S in addition to investigating patterns of unusual wildlife health events are:

- Refining thresholds for alerts.
- Enabling the system to automatically alert to “syndromic clusters” or clusters of animals presenting with the same clinical signs/disease.
- Building in functionality to automatically alert wildlife rehabilitation centers and CDFW to unusual health events.

This application will not include finder information or the care information noted by the intake wildlife rehabilitator.

PRESENTER KRYSTA ROGERS, CDFW

Avian mortality investigations for 2017 revealed an increased mortality via starvation, especially in the Double-crested cormorants.

Avian cholera had increased mortality in multiple waterfowl species including: American coots, ruddy duck, American green-winged teal, northern shovelers, cackling geese, snow geese, white-fronted geese and tundra swans. There were 4,000-



6,000 estimated dead birds in Lake, Yolo, Alameda, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus counties.

Mycoplasmosis also had increased mortality, occurring March through October in mourning doves with an estimated 1,000-3,000 deaths. Band-tailed pigeons had an estimated 300-500 mortality rate from January to February.

Schistosomiasis was found in three Canada geese. It is caused by a parasitic trematode (fluke) and has a two host life cycle; from snail to water bird.

Domoic acid showed increased mortality from April to July. Multiple water bird species were affected including: Pacific loons, red-throated loons, Brandt’s cormorants, western grebe, Clark’s grebe, brown pelican, and black-crowned night heron. Three counties were affected: Ventura, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles. This outbreak is estimated to have killed between 10,000 – 30,000 waterbirds.

An unidentified gram-negative bacterial infection killed 30 California gulls in May 2017. Clinical signs were paralysis and bloody discharge. Necropsies found congestion and hemorrhage in the lungs and brain, hemorrhage in the body cavity, liver inflammation (hepatitis), and kidney inflammation (nephritis).

Sarcocystosis, an inflammatory neurologic disease (encephalitis) caused by protozoa *Sarcocystis calchasi* had increased mortality February through May 2017. It was detected in non-native rock pigeons that displayed neurologic symptoms, torticollis, incoordination, and difficulty standing and flying. Nine counties had confirmed cases but it’s likely that this is a widespread problem.

Pigeon paramyxovirus is a genetic variant of avian paramyxovirus adapted to pigeons and doves. Increased mortality was seen in May through December in the non-native

Eurasian collared doves. It is suspected that this virus kills animals before they reach rehabilitation. It is transmitted via feces, saliva, and respiratory secretions.

187 raptors were during January to December 2017 with 22 species from 37 counties. Most of them, the COD was anticoagulant rodenticides (83.3%), followed by West Nile virus (16.3%), then avian trichomonosis (4.3%). Other causes of death were: starvation, infection, trauma, injuries suffering from falling from nest, predator aggression, wind turbine strike, vehicle collisions, window collisions, entrapment and entanglement, gunshot, and electrocution. Only one raptor (a golden eagle) was presented with lead exposure.

PRESENTER DR. DEANA CLIFFORD, CDFW

Dr. Clifford discussed types of mange and affected species in California wildlife. Mange is caused by intra-epidermal and epidermal burrowing mites.

There are two primary types of mange:

- Notoedric mange: Western gray squirrels, bobcats, and mountain lions
- Sarcoptic mange is most commonly found in coyotes and foxes.

Sarcoptic mange has a limited potential to infect people. It can remain in the environment and in wildlife rehabilitation centers. This type of mange can jump onto towels (anything soft) and transfer from enclosure to enclosure. An animal being treated for mange must be quarantined from other animals. Mange can be fatal without intervention. Sarcoptic mange is found worldwide, affecting dogs, coyotes, and foxes.

Clinical signs of mange are: hair loss, pruritus (itchy skin), dermatitis (skin

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inflammation), hyperkeratosis (thick skin), crusts, open wounds (decubitus ulcers, secondary infections) and emaciation. Along with the hair loss comes the inability to thermoregulate, hypoglycemia, serum chemistry changes, starvation, and protein loss across the inflamed skin. All critical care conditions must be treated immediately before concentrating on the mange treatment. In coyotes, the infection starts on the haunches. The infection has a distinct smell and can infect cats.

There is currently no vaccination or treatments that has efficacy for more than about one month in wildlife species. There

is no evidence that animals can develop immunity against mange. It takes about three to five months in rehabilitation for recovery for sarcoptic mange. Treatment usually involves 3-4 treatments with selamectin (Revolution®) with two weeks in between each dose.

Notoedric mange affects felids and rodents. In these cases, the hair loss begins at the head and shoulders. Squirrels in Yosemite were greatly diminished by mites, and now the squirrels are possibly recovering their population numbers.

Mange appearance (as monitored by wildlife

cameras) coincides with the disappearance of a species. More mange is seen in areas where there is AR use. AR may cause some biochemical changes in an animal's natural ability to suppress parasitic attacks.

Vaccines or treatments last for only about one month in the wild. Animals get reinfected quickly. Field treatments are not practical because of liability and exposure. Free-feeding medications are toxic to some other animals (cats, pregnant domestics) and there's no assurance infected animals get the supplementary doses needed to complete the treatment. ↻

AMENDMENT TO THE HUMAN / WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS IN CA

Department of Fish and Wildlife
DEPARTMENTAL BULLETIN
Date Issued: December 15, 2017
Expires: Until Superseded

HUMAN/WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS IN CALIFORNIA: MOUNTAIN LION DEPREDATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND ANIMAL WELFARE -- AMENDMENT TO DEPARTMENT BULLETING 2013-02

Fundamental to the Department's conservation, education, and outreach regarding mountain lions, the Department works to (a) maintain genetically diverse and demographically viable populations, (b) minimize conflicts between mountain lions and humans, (c) identify and protect important habitats, (d) improve public awareness, and (e) identify and research emerging management and scientific issues.

This 2017 amendment is the result of consideration of recent biological and scientific information as well as human population growth; the amendment will guide depredation incident response in a defined and limited geographic area of Southern California. Bulletin 2013-02 and the emphasis on public safety is not

superseded. This document is subject to further deliberation and possible amendment as new information and implementation results dictate.

ISSUE STATEMENT

The purpose of this Bulletin Amendment is to establish policy for issuance of permits related to mountain lion depredation within specific Southern California mountain lion populations. Recent research indicates a lack of genetic diversity in specific areas of Southern California (Ernest et al. 20141) and concomitant human population growth along with anthropogenic barriers that restrict connectivity with other populations, justifying a tailored approach to depredation response in this limited area. In addition to specific policy measures, the Department is pursuing many actions toward managing mountain lions, including coordination with federal, state, and nongovernmental organization partners on projects to improve habitat connectivity, and to increase public outreach and education.

This Bulletin Amendment seeks to improve training, communication, transparency, and decision making as they relate to managing human/wildlife conflicts involving mountain lions, within a defined and limited geographic area of Southern California (i.e. the implementation area). The Department also seeks to avoid, where possible, mountain lion mortality resulting from the issuance of depredation permits in these areas. Department staff recognize that each depredation incident may be unique. Therefore, in addition to the geographically specific process defined in this policy amendment, staff responding to depredation reports should consider all factors relevant to the incident and respond appropriately given the circumstances. This amendment supplements and, where relevant, replaces Bulletin 2013-02.



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IMPLEMENTATION AREA DEFINED

The geographic area for purposes of implementing the policy in this Bulletin is defined in Section 6 of Stepwise Process for Mountain Lion Incidents. Generally, it includes parts of the Santa Monica Mountains south of Interstate 101 from Newbury Park to Burbank; west of Interstate 5 to Malibu; north of Interstate 10 near Santa Monica; and the Santa Ana Mountains south of the Anaheim/Pomona area to south of Escondido; and an eastern boundary into western Riverside County.

STEPWISE PROCESS FOR MOUNTAIN LION INCIDENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AREAS

1 FIRST DEPREDATION EVENT

- a. Confirmation of depredation. Per Fish and Game Code section 4803, a mountain lion depredation must be verified by a responder.
- b. Oral authorization. Per Fish and Game Code Section 4805, oral authorization to pursue (haze) the depredating mountain lion may be granted if the immediate pursuit will assist in the non-lethal removal of the mountain lion from the property. A depredation permit shall be issued as soon as practical.
- c. Education. The responder should discuss site-specific options for managing mountain lion depredation with the reporting party (RP) and educate the RP regarding mountain lion behavior. Additionally, the responder should communicate that as a condition of any depredation permit, the property owner should institute logistically and economically feasible measures designed to reduce the potential for attracting mountain lions. Measures include, but are not limited to: 1) removing the carcass and carcass parts of depredated animals; 2) install/repair/replace fencing or other shelter designed to exclude mountain lions from the attractant; 3) removing potential suitable habitat (e.g., cover) from the immediate vicinity by clearing brush or removing lower limbs from shrubbery.

- d. RP requests a permit. If the RP requests a depredation permit, the Department shall issue a permit. The Department should issue a 'nonlethal' depredation permit to pursue/haze the mountain lion. Measures that could be part of a permit include, but are not limited to: 1) deploying temporary deterrent systems (e.g., motion-sensitive lighting, loud music), and 2) the use of livestock protection dogs, etc. Such permits shall explicitly indicate that no mountain lion shall be intentionally killed during this phase of the permitting process. Unique characteristics or specific collar/tag information on suspected lions shall be noted and monitored by the department when possible.

2 SECOND DEPREDATION EVENT

If a mountain lion depredation is reported at the same physical location (e.g. reported on animals owned by the same RP within the same geographic ownership or area) within a time period strongly suggesting a lion's affinity for the site, the Department will confirm the reported mountain lion depredation, and issue, if necessary, oral authorization in accordance with Sections 1(a) and (b) above.

- a. RP requests a permit. If damage is confirmed, and the property owner has demonstrated that all reasonable preventative measures recommended by the Department were implemented, the responder should modify the existing permit or issue a new non-lethal depredation permit specifying additional measures not included in the previous permit (e.g., use of beanbag shots). Such permits shall explicitly indicate that no mountain lion shall be intentionally killed during pursuit.

3 THIRD DEPREDATION EVENT

If a mountain lion depredation is reported a third time at the same physical location (e.g. reported on animals owned by the same RP within the same geographic ownership or area) within a time period strongly suggesting a lion's affinity for the site, the responder will first verify the reported

mountain lion depredation in accordance with Section 1(a) above.

- a. RP requests a permit. If damage is confirmed by the Department, the RP as demonstrated that all reasonable preventative measures required in the existing permits were implemented, and the RP requests a lethal depredation permit, the Department shall issue a depredation permit to lethally remove the mountain lion. This permit could be via oral authorization per Fish and Game Code Section 4805.


4 TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MOUNTAIN LION DEPREDATION PERMITS

Only one mountain lion may be killed under a depredation permit. In order to ensure that only the depredating lion will be taken, the permit shall: (1) expire 10 days after issuance; (2) authorize the permittee to begin pursuit of the depredating mountain lion not more than one mile from the depredation site; and, (3) limit the pursuit of the depredating mountain lion to within a 10-mile radius from the location of the reported damage or destruction. If damage continues to occur following the killing of a mountain lion under a permit, the Department may issue an additional depredation permit, or Fish and Game Code Section 4807 may allow for immediate additional take.

5 TRACKING OF PERMITS

Upon concluding the incident, the responder shall ensure completion of the reporting requirement and close the incident. All reporting shall be complete not more than three business days after the incident is concluded. If a mountain lion is lethally taken under authority of a depredation permit, the carcass shall be collected by the Department and a necropsy performed.

To read the full bulletin and view the maps of the mountain lion population areas involved, visit:

<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=153021&inline> 



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If you are passionate about wildlife rehabilitation, you know that networking with other rehabilitators is essential to keep your skills sharp and current. Join the more than 300 California wildlife rehabilitators who are already members, and help us expand our network of knowledge and expertise. Joining or renewing is easy. Visit <https://ccwr.org/join> for all the details.

YOUR BOARD ACTIVITY

Any CCWR member in good standing is welcome to attend the board meetings. Please advise CCWR President Rachel Avilla at least two weeks prior to attending (rachel@ccwr.org). Members who wish to present a topic must understand that speaking time will be limited as the meeting agenda is typically full. An executive session or vote will require regular members to temporarily step out of the room.

UPCOMING 2018 BOARD MEETINGS

- October 26, 2018, Petaluma