

MEDIA CONTACT:

Nina Thompson
619-372-0916 cell
nthompson@sdhumane.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 9, 2020

Bobcat Burned in El Dorado Fire Turns Corner at Ramona Wildlife Center

Victim of wildfire is showing signs of improvement after a tough journey toward recovery.

Ramona — A bobcat who arrived at San Diego Humane Society’s Ramona Wildlife Center with severe burns from the El Dorado Fire in Yucaipa, California, has a good chance of making a full recovery. After nearly a month of intensive treatment by Project Wildlife’s medical team, the bobcat is healing well.

The 6- to 8-month-old bobcat arrived at the Ramona Wildlife Center on Oct. 13, 2020, after a call by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The warden explained that a citizen from Yucaipa had been out with her dogs when the dogs spotted the bobcat. The dog owner was able to get between the animals to prevent any injuries. The cat was then taken to a veterinary clinic in Grand Terrace. The cat was so growly that veterinary staff hesitated to open the carrier and instead contacted CDFW. Staff at San Diego Humane Society’s Project Wildlife confirmed it was a bobcat by looking at photos and identifying the markings on the animal.



Once at San Diego Humane Society’s Ramona Wildlife Center, staff noticed the cat’s ears and whiskers were singed, consistent with fire exposure, and later confirmed that she was a victim of the El Dorado Fire. The animal’s weakened, emaciated state is likely the reason the dogs spotted her in the first place. “Typically, encounters with dogs do not end well, but in this case, it probably saved her life,” said Christine Barton, director of operations and wildlife rehabilitation at San Diego Humane Society’s Ramona Wildlife Center. “You could see that she was emaciated and clearly had singed whiskers and ears, but her full exam revealed the true extent of her injuries, which included burns to all four of her paws. We collaborate with CDFW and a burn specialist with UC Davis on burn cases, and we all agreed that this little girl is a fighter and has a good chance of making a full recovery.”

Project Wildlife’s medical team went to work debriding and dressing all of her burns, some of which were infected and quite severe. Treatment has included multiple bandage changes, strong antibiotics to fight the infection and pain medication to keep her comfortable. The team hopes to return the bobcat to the wild next month. Project Wildlife will work with CDFW biologists to determine a suitable release site outside of the burn area to ensure there are food and water sources for her to thrive in the future.

Photos, b-roll and sound for media use can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/3jTK6Eu>

To schedule an interview about the bobcat’s recovery, contact Nina Thompson at 619-372-0916.

Suggested Tweet: A bobcat badly burned in the [#ElDoradoFire](#) in Yucaipa, CA has turned a corner at [@sdhumane](#)'s Ramona Wildlife Center. Thanks to intense medical treatment by [#ProjectWildlife](#)'s team, the wildfire victim is showing signs of improvement.

About San Diego Humane Society

San Diego Humane Society’s scope of social responsibility goes beyond adopting animals. We offer programs that strengthen the human-animal bond, prevent cruelty and neglect, provide medical care, educate the community and serve as a safety net for all pet families. Serving San Diego County since 1880, San Diego Humane Society has campuses in El Cajon, Escondido, Oceanside, Ramona and San Diego. For more information, please visit sdhumane.org.