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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Orphaned Bear Cubs Get a Second Chance at San Diego Humane Society

Ramona Wildlife Center offers rare, life-saving rehabilitation for apex predators

RAMONA, CA — Three young black bear cubs were brought to San Diego Humane Society's Ramona Wildlife Center after being rescued in Calaveras County by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The orphaned siblings, approximately 6-7 months old, had been seen wandering alone in a neighborhood for several days. Their mother was never located, and her fate remains unknown.

The cubs arrived at the Ramona Wildlife Center on July 24, 2025, and underwent a comprehensive health evaluation under anesthesia on July 31. Project Wildlife's veterinary team confirmed their genders — two males and one female — and performed dental exams, radiographs and other diagnostics to assess their condition.



Sadly, the female cub was found to have a malformed shoulder and elbow, likely congenital, as well as a bb pellet embedded in her front paw. The deformities would have caused her chronic pain and lifelong mobility issues. In consultation with CDFW, San Diego Humane Society's veterinary team made the heartbreaking decision to humanely euthanize her to prioritize her welfare and prevent prolonged suffering.

"This is never a decision we take lightly," said Dr. Alexis Wohl, Wildlife Veterinary Manager at San Diego Humane Society. "But in cases where an animal's quality of life would be severely compromised, humane euthanasia is sometimes the most compassionate option."

The two male cubs are healthy and were moved to a large outdoor enclosure designed to mimic their natural habitat. San Diego Humane Society's Project Wildlife team will continue to care for them as they grow stronger and prepare for potential release back into the wild, working closely with CDFW throughout the process.

San Diego Humane Society's Ramona Wildlife Center remains the only facility in Southern California currently able to accept black bear cubs for rehabilitation, as other centers — including Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue and Gold Country Wildlife Rescue — are at capacity.

"This is a critical moment for these bears," said Autumn Welch, Wildlife Operations Manager at San Diego Humane Society's Ramona Wildlife Center. "We are doing everything we can to give them the best possible shot at returning to their wild home."

San Diego Humane Society receives no state funding for its wildlife work and relies entirely on donations to support its efforts. The Ramona Wildlife Center is the only facility in San Diego County permitted to rehabilitate large carnivores, such as black bears and mountain lions.

To support this vital work or learn more, visit: sdhumane.org/wildlife.

Photos/video of bear cubs at San Diego Humane Society for media use can be downloaded here:

<https://spaces.hightail.com/space/xYTbUOL96T>

Photo/video credit: San Diego Humane Society



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.

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