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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Orphaned Black Bear Siblings Return to the Wild**

*Brothers ready to survive on their own after getting raised at San Diego Humane Society*

**RAMONA, CA** — Two California black bear siblings are back in the wild after spending 10 months growing up at San Diego Humane Society’s Ramona Wildlife Center. The brothers were released by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in the San Bernardino National Forest on May 15, 2024, near where they were first found.



CDFW began tracking the cubs in July 2023 once they located the bears’ deceased mother. At only five months old, the cubs would have been too young to survive on their own. Black bear cubs typically need to stay with their mother, or sow, for up to 17 months. The first cub was rescued by CDFW on July 4, 2023, and the second, smaller cub, on July 7, 2023. Once reunited at the Ramona Wildlife Center it was clear the brothers were happy to be together.

San Diego Humane Society’s wildlife rehab specialists have strategically watched over the bears with minimal contact to ensure they would not become habituated to humans. The bears were kept in an outdoor enclosure mimicking their natural environment with native plants and substrate, such as California live oak, pine, clover, mulberry branches, fruit tree branches, mulch, hummingbird sage, sumac, chamomile flowers and herbs. They were fed plenty of fruits, vegetables, nuts, peanut butter and bear chow daily. While in care, the bears [also received a gift of a 467-lb. pumpkin](#), donated and delivered by Escondido couple Kristen and Jason Bush after Halloween. Once the bears showed they could successfully forage for food and survive on their own, they were ready for release.

The bears have been microchipped, fitted with GPS collars and given a clean bill of health from San Diego Humane Society’s wildlife veterinary team. “It’s a delicate skill to raise wild bears in captivity,” said Andy Blue, campus director of San Diego Humane Society’s Ramona Wildlife Center. “Bears eat more than 10 pounds of food per day, so to ensure they are fed without our staff ever being seen, and that they have plenty of enrichment to exhibit their natural behaviors without leaving human scents behind, takes meticulous planning.”

San Diego Humane Society’s Project Wildlife program is the primary resource for wild animal rehabilitation and conservation education in San Diego County. Each year, the organization gives more than 10,000 injured, orphaned and sick wild animals a second chance. At the Ramona Wildlife Center, which they have been operating since 2020, SDHS specializes in caring for native apex predators and birds of prey, including hawks, owls, eagles, coyotes, bears, bobcats and, under special case-by-case authorization, mountain lions.

**Photos/video of the bears’ return to the wild here: <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/knG2K4vwSO>**

**Photos/video of bear cubs’ arrival here: <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/dXxK7XjBBf>**

**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](http://sdhumane.org).

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