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Orphaned Bobcat Returns to Wild on World Wildlife Day

Bobcat rehabilitated at San Diego Humane Society's Ramona Wildlife Center before release in Borrego Springs.

Ramona — A bobcat who spent more than three months at San Diego Humane Society's Ramona Wildlife Center returned to the wild today, on World Wildlife Day. The orphaned cat was brought to Project Wildlife by a citizen who found him abandoned on private property in Borrego Springs on Nov. 23, 2020.

Upon examination, Project Wildlife veterinarians diagnosed the young kitten with a gastrointestinal infection that was treated with a course of antibiotics and implemented a treatment plan that included a gradual introduction to a natural diet. "It was touch and go for a bit and we were very concerned about this young bobcat kitten," said Christine

Barton, director of operations and wildlife rehabilitation at San Diego Humane Society's Ramona Wildlife Center. "We are thrilled that he thrived and though small, is a force to be reckoned with — ready to take on the vast landscape of Borrego Springs and make it his home once again."



The bobcat was part of a late litter, as bobcat kittens typically arrive towards the end of spring. His arrival in the Fall meant there were no other orphaned conspecifics to combine him with at the Ramona Wildlife Center. The patient's medical condition prevented staff from transferring him to another clinic that had late kittens.

"To hold a single bobcat kitten over winter is extremely difficult to do without habituating him to humans," said Barton. "The wildlife caregivers at our campus took extreme precautions and provided all the necessary tools and stimulus to give this orphan bobcat a chance at successful rehab and release back into the wild."

During his stay at the Ramona Wildlife Center, the young bobcat was provided an outdoor environment full of enrichment and stimulation with climbing and hunting challenges to prepare for wild release.

B-roll and photos of the bobcat release can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/3b93uMr>

Suggested Tweet: What a sight! An orphaned bobcat is rehabilitated and returned to the wild in Borrego Springs on #WorldWildlifeDay. The bobcat spent the winter at @sdhumane's Ramona Wildlife Center to gain strength and develop wild instincts in order to survive on his own.

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.