



MEDIA CONTACT:

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

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Three Orphaned Bear Cubs, Rehabilitated and Returned to Wild

San Diego Humane Society's Project Wildlife team raised cubs at Ramona Wildlife Center

NEAR SEVEN OAKS, CA — Three bear cubs returned to the wild Wednesday evening, April 26, after spending nine months at San Diego Humane Society's Ramona Wildlife Center for care and rehabilitation. The two females and one male were released in the San Bernardino National Forest.

All three cubs were rescued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and brought to the Ramona Wildlife Center in July of 2022. An orphaned brother-sister pair came from the San Bernardino Mountains. Their mother had been conditioned to seek food from humans and was killed by a resident while attempting to break into a cabin. The third, a female cub, was rescued after her mother was likely hit by a car near Lake Arrowhead.

Since their arrival, the three cubs have grown healthy and strong together at the Ramona Wildlife Center in an outdoor enclosure that closely mimics life in the wild. San Diego Humane Society's Project Wildlife team has kept a watchful eye from a distance, making sure the bears did not become comfortable around humans and were prepared to survive on their own and forage for food. The bears have also been microchipped, fitted with a GPS collar and given a clean bill of health from Project Wildlife's veterinary team.

There are two bear cubs still in care at the Ramona Wildlife Center. With this latest release, the center is making space for new orphaned bears found in the wild this season, as bear cubs are typically born in February/March. "It is always our goal to rehabilitate and return all wildlife to their natural habitat," said Andy Blue, campus director of San Diego Humane Society's Ramona Wildlife Center. "This release in Clark's Ranch was very special for our team because it was relatively close to us, so we had multiple wildlife rehab specialists joining to witness it firsthand."

San Diego Humane Society's Project Wildlife program is the primary resource for native wild animal rehabilitation in San Diego County. Each year, SDHS gives more than 13,000 injured, orphaned and sick wild animals a second chance. In 2020, SDHS announced a new Ramona Campus, where they specialize in caring for native apex predators and birds of prey, including hawks, owls, eagles, coyotes, bears, bobcats and, under special pilot authorization, mountain lions.

Media photos/b-roll of bear cubs returning to wild can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/3KcfgWI>

Media photos/b-roll of bear exams/care at SDHS can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/3QqSFqW>

Media photos/b-roll of bears' arrival at SDHS can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/3nTt5P3>

Suggested Tweet: Three orphaned California black bear cubs are back in the wild, after spending the last 9 months gaining strength at @sdhumane's Ramona Wildlife Center. The cubs were rescued by @CaliforniaDFW in the San Bernardino Mountains in July of 2022.

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. Follow the SDHS Media Relations department on [Twitter @sdhumane](https://twitter.com/sdhumane).

