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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Three Orphaned Bear Cubs at Ramona Wildlife Center Pass Health Check!**

*Cubs have been placed together to rehabilitate and grow strong before they return to the wild.*

**RAMONA, CA** — The three orphaned California black bear cubs, transferred to San Diego Humane Society's Ramona Wildlife Center for rehabilitation about a month ago, have passed their health exam and have been housed together to grow strong until they are ready for the wild. The cubs are playing together, investigating their habitat and learning to forage for food.

Two of the cubs, a brother and sister, came from Valley of Falls in the San Bernardino Mountains, and the third from Lake Arrowhead. The bears all arrived on separate dates, after being rescued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

The first two siblings are now about 6 months old. They became orphaned after their mother, who was conditioned to seek food from humans, was killed by a civilian while attempting to break into a cabin in Valley of the Falls. The first cub arrived at the Ramona Wildlife Center on July 9, and the second on July 12. The third unrelated cub, who is female, arrived on July 15. That cub's mother is believed to have been hit by a car near Lake Arrowhead.



San Diego Humane Society's Project Wildlife team kept the cubs separate for 48 hours, before placing them together in a suitable indoor/outdoor enclosure. "The single female cub, who is actually much bigger than the two siblings, was rather shy and quiet in the beginning," said Dr. Jon Enyart, Senior Director of Project Wildlife. "It took some time for the brother and sister to invite her into their family, but now they do everything together."

On Aug. 4, 2022, San Diego Humane Society's Project Wildlife veterinary team anesthetized all three bears for their first physical exam, which included blood work, radiographs of every limb and portion of the body, a check of their teeth, as well as measuring their paw pads, body length and width. The bears were also microchipped. The veterinary team was pleased to find all three bears in excellent health. After they woke up, the bear cubs were moved to a full outside enclosure for the first time.

The move outdoors is significant in the cubs' preparation to return to the wild, because they are given access to trees, shrubs and natural substrate. They also get acclimated to the weather, and have opportunities to run, climb, play and forage for their food. "It is so important that these bears do not get comfortable around humans and associate us people with food," said Andy Blue, campus director of San Diego Humane Society's Ramona Wildlife Center. "For their own safety and the safety of the public, we want them to avoid humans at all cost, and learn how to forage and hunt so that they can survive on their own in the wild."

San Diego Humane Society's Project Wildlife program is the primary resource for 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 exams and bears in outdoor enclosure can be downloaded here:**  
<https://bit.ly/3QqSEqW>

**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 in care at @sdhumane's Ramona Wildlife Center have passed their physical exams and been placed together in an outdoor enclosure. The bears are all healthy and will stay with SDHS until they are ready to return to the wild.

**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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