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Two Orphaned Bear Cubs Are Back in the Wild!

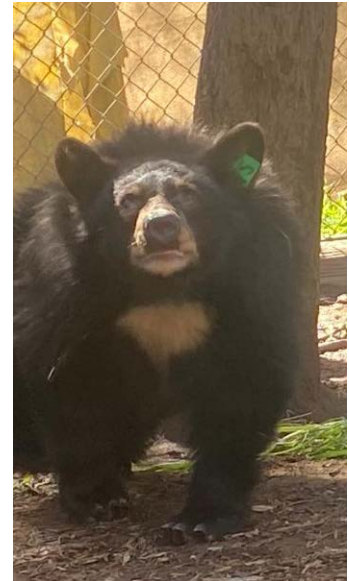
Cubs released in Inyo and Tulare Counties, CA, after care at Ramona Wildlife Center

RAMONA, CA — Two California black bear cubs are back in the wild tonight after spending five months at San Diego Humane Society’s Ramona Wildlife Center for care and rehabilitation. A 15 month-old female cub and a 15 month-old male cub were released just two hours apart in Central California’s Inyo and Tulare Counties on Wed., May 24, 2023 by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

The cub who was released in Inyo County arrived at the Ramona Wildlife Center on Dec. 15, 2022 from Bishop. He had been orphaned and reported to be showing habituation to people, which is dangerous for both the bear and the public. It was believed the mother had been struck by a car. The cub who was released in Tulare County arrived Dec. 18, 2022, after she was believed to have been orphaned by the heavy rainstorms, which can flood bear dens. She was rescued by CDFW biologists near Bakersfield after she was found abandoned and thin.

The two cubs were housed in an outdoor enclosure together at the Ramona Wildlife Center, allowing them to exhibit more natural behaviors. They had access to trees, shrubs and natural substrate, as well as opportunities to run, climb, play and forage for food. Project Wildlife’s animal care team intentionally minimized interaction with the bears, so the cubs would not get comfortable around humans. “Their stay with us has to mimic life in the wild, to set them up for success,” said Andy Blue, campus director of San Diego Humane Society’s Ramona Wildlife Center. “It’s incredibly important that no one gets any unnecessary access to the bears, because then they might think it is safe to approach humans after they’ve been released.”

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, SDHS gives nearly 13,000 injured, orphaned and sick wild animals a second chance. At the Ramona Campus, 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 pilot authorization, mountain lions.



Video/photos/sound of the preparation of the bears’ return to the wild for media use can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/3WIAZRv>

Video/photos of the bear cubs receiving care at SDHS here: <https://bit.ly/3BE6KvQ>

Suggested Tweet: Two orphaned California black bear cubs are back in the wild! @CaliforniaDFW released the bears in Central California, after they spent five months at @sdhumane’s Ramona Wildlife Center for care and rehabilitation.

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).

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