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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Mountain Lion Hit by Car Treated at San Diego Humane Society** *Cub with skull fracture, severe head and eye trauma, recovers after care at organization's Ramona Wildlife Center*

**RAMONA, CA** — As **National Wildlife Week** begins on April 5, we are pleased to share a remarkable story of resilience: A young male mountain lion, who suffered severe injuries after being hit by a car, is making a promising recovery at San Diego Humane Society's Ramona Wildlife Center.

The cub was brought to the organization by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) on Jan. 15, 2025, after being found on the side of a road in Orange County. Initially taken to Serrano Animal & Bird Hospital in Lake Forest for triage care, he was later transferred to San Diego Humane Society's Project Wildlife team for specialized rehabilitation.

During an anesthetized exam, Project Wildlife's veterinary team conducted X-rays that revealed a skull fracture, along with significant head and eye trauma. He also exhibited lameness in his left hind leg. To support his recovery, the team provided intensive treatment, including pain management, nutritional support and around-the-clock monitoring. As the cub's condition improved, he transitioned to an outdoor enclosure, where he could safely regain his strength while minimizing human interaction.



Now, after 80 days of expert care, the mountain lion is showing signs of readiness to return to the wild. He is exhibiting natural survival behaviors, such as avoiding human presence and successfully hunting for food. Before he can be released, he needs to gain additional weight and meet essential benchmarks for his long-term survival.

“We work closely with CDFW to determine the best timing for his return to the wild,” said Autumn Nelson, Wildlife Operations Manager at San Diego Humane Society's Ramona Wildlife Center. “Our job here is to set him up for success—to ensure he can fend for himself and stay away from human conflict.”

San Diego Humane Society's Project Wildlife program is the primary resource for wild animal rehabilitation 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 Campus, San Diego Humane Society 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.

**\*Media interviews per request available starting Sunday, April 6, 2025. Please contact Nina Thompson at 619-372-0916 or [nthompson@sdhumane.org](mailto:nthompson@sdhumane.org).**



**Photos/b-roll of mountain lion's rehabilitation for media use can be downloaded here:**

**<https://spaces.hightail.com/space/jpLqb40Vfh>**

**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, visit [sdhumane.org](http://sdhumane.org).

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