

Speaker Name	Start Time	End Time	Text
Narrator	00:00:00:00	00:00:47:20	On California's Central Coast.
Narrator	00:00:47:22	00:00:53:20	A story is unfolding.
Narrator	00:00:53:22	00:00:57:12	Of humans.
Narrator	00:00:57:14	00:01:02:14	Helping wildlife.
Narrator	00:01:02:16	00:01:14:11	With each passing day. Our worlds overlap more and more with the wild one.
Narrator	00:01:14:13	00:01:29:17	It's an in-between world. This world we share is wild but crowded.
Narrator	00:01:29:18	00:01:37:06	An easy place for us. But for wild animals.
Narrator	00:01:37:08	00:01:58:14	Well, it's an obstacle course. Imagine just being a few inches high and crossing your street. Would you take that chance?
Narrator	00:01:58:16	00:02:08:17	But our home is their home. And these are our wild neighbors.
Narrator	00:02:08:19	00:02:14:10	Raccoons.
Narrator	00:02:14:12	00:02:23:05	Opossums.
Narrator	00:02:23:07	00:02:29:12	Skunks.
Narrator	00:02:29:14	00:02:50:05	It's easy to think that our human world is separate from their wild world. But in reality, a powerful force connects these two worlds. And that force is us humans.
Narrator	00:02:50:07	00:03:07:21	Somewhere out there, a possum mom is trying to get her babies safely across a busy street. Sadly, accidents do happen.
Operator	00:03:07:23	00:03:11:23	Wildlife care network. What's your emergency?
Narrator	00:03:11:23	00:03:18:23	In Santa Barbara, California is a state of the art hospital.
Narrator	00:03:19:01	00:03:39:00	It's our job to rescue wildlife.
Narrator	00:04:11:11	00:04:36:07	It all starts from the premise. Every life matters.
Narrator	00:04:36:09	00:04:40:11	Every day.
Narrator	00:04:40:13	00:04:46:09	Wildlife needs us.
Narrator	00:04:46:11	00:04:52:02	They may be lost and scared.
Narrator	00:04:52:04	00:04:58:06	You'd feel scared if Annette suddenly came down.
Narrator	00:04:58:08	00:05:01:23	We catch them.
Narrator	00:05:02:00	00:05:11:10	We take them in, and then. We care for them.
Narrator	00:05:11:12	00:05:19:15	We are passionate and highly trained as any hospital.
Vetranarian	00:05:19:17	00:05:42:05	looking for any stain up take. And we're all good. You're doing so good.
Narrator	00:05:42:07	00:06:20:04	Like any hospital. We get many different patients. With many different needs. Each year we treat 4000 patients and as many as 200 different species. These animals have no health insurance, no clinical records. We can't ask them, hey, what's wrong or where does it hurt?
Narrator	00:06:20:06	00:06:29:17	Just like our house, cats and dogs, every wild creature deserves the best chance at recovery.
Narrator	00:06:29:18	00:06:47:19	So they can return to where they belong.
Narrator	00:07:07:20	00:07:20:13	Our hospital is spread across almost two acres. Featuring seabird pools, skunk suites, and a raccoon resort. We even have mammal and songbird nurseries.
Delaney	00:07:20:20	00:07:40:13	Copy that whats your 20. Hey Lanie, we've got a bobcat down here for you. Perfect. Come, down there. I'm Delaney and the hospital manager. I used to be a lacrosse player, but now I'm a professional bobcat catcher.
Delaney	00:07:40:15	00:08:12:19	And in an ordinary cat carrier. Not an ordinary cat. It's actually a baby bobcat. A bobcat is going to see me as a potential threat to their territory. And in that moment, the territory is their prey. And so their goal is to protect their prey, to protect themselves. A bobcat may look like a domestic cat. But this is a wildcat.
Delaney	00:08:12:21	00:08:32:20	Hopefully you don't need these kind of gloves for your house. Cat. We had reports of the animal limping. Bobcat should really be walking with all four of them separately, so we need to do more diagnostics to figure out exactly what's going on, to figure out more treatment.
Delaney	00:08:32:22	00:09:01:07	We had a ton of bobcats brought in this year. This is our bobcat. We don't know why I can look up really close at the hips. I can look all the way down the bone to the leg to look for issues. This one's the latest bobcat. One, 4, 5. We assign numbers on arrival, age a few months.

An orphan. We're going to investigate her injuries. It might reveal why other bobcats have been brought in too. Especially with a bobcat that young, she should definitely still be with mom. So it's possible that that bobcat is orphaned and was trying to find her way around. And we're hoping she can go outside and we can start seeing how she reacts to being in a larger outdoor enclosure.

Delaney 00:09:01:09 00:09:37:23

Narrator 00:09:38:01 00:09:48:03 In the songbird room, there's a delicate situation.

Narrator 00:09:48:05 00:10:00:09 A wren, one of our smallest birds, is stuck on an adhesive mousetrap. It's going to take a lot of skill and patience to, unglue it.

Delaney 00:10:00:05 00:10:13:09 A wren, one of our smallest birds, is stuck on an adhesive mousetrap. It's going to take a lot of skill and patience to, unglue it.

Delaney 00:10:13:11 00:10:40:23 Yep, should be good. This is going to keep him from sticking to his enclosure or his food bowl, or his water bowl. We are going to let him de-stress before we try to remove any of the glue from his feathers. Because he has been through a bit of an ordeal, we go to.

Narrator 00:10:31:11 00:10:40:23 Cleaned up, fed and rested another life.

Narrator 00:10:41:00 00:10:56:10 Has been saved. Maybe it's a second chance for a whole family because it's nesting time.

Narrator 00:10:56:12 00:11:04:16 Spring is here and it's babies everywhere.

Narrator 00:11:04:18 00:11:11:11 And nature's daycare is full.

Narrator 00:11:11:13 00:11:24:23 With so many baby animals, it's hard to describe.

Narrator 00:11:25:01 00:12:03:18 Remember the accident earlier. These little babies, month old opossums are the survivors. And now they're orphaned. With all of these orphaned babies to look after. Well, we got to feed them. But they are all so different.

Narrator 00:12:03:20 00:12:13:20 In the wild, a hummingbird feeds hundreds of times a day.

Narrator 00:12:13:22 00:12:25:15 Baby birds, like hummingbirds, are fed every 15 minutes.

Narrator 00:12:25:17 00:12:33:02 From dawn till dusk.

Narrator 00:12:33:04 00:12:50:03 So if you do the math, we may have 100 baby birds. And they're fed. Let's see, 36 times a day. That's 3600 feedings a day just for the smaller birds.

Narrator 00:12:50:05 00:13:15:16 But wait, there's more. All the baby bunnies, opossums and raccoons. They also need to be fed every couple of hours through the day. And the baby ducklings.

Narrator 00:13:15:18 00:13:32:23 And the seabirds like this. Very vocal, bright eyed, grebe. she needs to be fed with a tube every 90 minutes.

Narrator 00:13:33:01 00:13:45:22 Raccoons will eat almost anything.

Narrator 00:13:46:00 00:13:56:13 But they love crayfish.

Narrator 00:13:56:15 00:14:39:15 By late spring, there are now hundreds of animals in the center. And they're eating almost 500 pounds of food per week. It takes dozens of helping hands all day long just to feed them. And of course, if you feed them, you're going to be dealing with, well, yeah, lots of pooping. It's important to understand our patients. Veterinary science is constantly evolving, and we're always learning more and more about how animals think and feel

Narrator 00:14:39:17 00:14:47:04 The world looks and sounds very different to ours.

Narrator 00:14:47:06 00:15:04:20 Everything is louder, smellier or in sharper focus. It's like they have sensory superpowers. The owl. This little guy.

Narrator 00:15:04:22 00:15:13:08 Can hear the mouse breathe from way up in the tree.

Narrator 00:15:13:10 00:15:21:02 This raccoon can smell an apple from 50 yards.

Narrator 00:15:21:04 00:15:47:14 And this hawk. Can see a coin. From across a football field. It's kind of gross, but this opossum can eat 5000 ticks a year. Which helps prevent diseases in humans.

Narrator 00:15:47:16 00:16:11:19 Their special abilities often help us. But that doesn't mean that they don't need our help in return. And we need to use all our superpowers to help them.

Delaney 00:16:11:21 00:16:29:09 So back to bobcat one, 4, 5. She's calming down a little, but if animals get used to us, that's dangerous. Probably for both of us.

Delaney 00:16:29:11 00:16:40:05 So we wear disguises. It's just. Well, it's not much of a disguise, but it helps.

Narrator 00:16:40:07 00:16:50:22 A master of stealth and survival. It's now at the mercy of human hands.

Narrator 00:16:51:00 00:17:01:18 Claws that once gripped the forest floor. They now rest motionless.

Narrator 00:17:01:20 00:17:10:00 Every whisker a tool used for a life shaped in the wild.

Narrator 00:17:10:01 00:17:24:04 The team sifts through the chaparral colored fur coat for the faintest signs of a struggle. Perhaps hidden bruising may offer clues.

Narrator 00:17:24:06 00:17:56:06 But soon, answers begin to emerge. The leg is showing signs of an impact. Perhaps from a vehicle, the team gets right to work on a solution.

Narrator 00:18:25:04 00:18:31:03 The team is working late tonight. And many of our patients are from the night shift too.

Narrator 00:18:31:06 00:18:48:13 And that includes bats like this western yellow bat.

Narrator 00:18:48:15 00:18:52:17 And this pallid bat.

Delany 00:18:52:15 00:19:02:17 Pallid bats eat insects that live on the ground. And we're going to feed them upside down anyways, because that's how they eat. Little bites. The bite.

Narrator 00:19:02:15 00:19:13:17 The patients all require special diets, and sometimes. Oh, it's a dead lizard.

Delany 00:19:13:15 00:19:16:17 It's making my arm tired, that's for sure.

Narrator 00:18:48:15 00:19:26:17 Nothing goes to waste here. And for many animals, until animal.

Delany 00:19:26:19 00:19:32:04 Let's give him soft food.

Narrator 00:19:33:19 00:19:52:04 A dead lizard would be a delicious treat. Doesn't everybody like different things?

Narrator 00:19:52:06 00:20:29:19 We humans are recent arrivals here. But wildlife has been here forever, adapting as the world has changed over millions of years. Each generation is slightly different and learns new ways to survive. Take the fox. Well, there's three types of foxes commonly found in our area. There's the red, the gray and this little guy at Channel Islands Fox. He's a subspecies of the gray fox.

Narrator 00:20:29:21 00:20:34:15 And one of the smallest in the world.

Narrator 00:20:34:17 00:20:56:00 But what would happen to this fox and all our backyard creatures if suddenly you take us humans out of the picture, they return to a wild world.

Narrator 00:20:56:02 00:21:01:10 Where everything is in better balance.

Narrator 00:21:01:12 00:21:10:11 And the ocean is a shining example.

Narrator 00:21:10:13 00:21:35:06 It all works together.

Narrator 00:21:35:08 00:21:47:14 This kelp forest provides sanctuary to even the smallest creatures.

Narrator 00:21:47:16 00:21:57:10 Which provide nourishment up the food chain.

Narrator 00:21:57:12 00:22:04:23 And all part of an interconnected.

Narrator 00:22:05:01 00:22:09:01 And delicate balance.

Narrator 00:22:09:03 00:22:17:02

Narrator 00:22:17:04 00:22:38:22 When one part of nature does better, often they all do better. For many critters on land, too. Rely on their ocean neighbors for survival.

Narrator 00:22:39:00 00:22:53:22 The fox is part of that bigger, beautiful world. remember those birds you saw flying around. Well. Yeah, he's eating their eggs.

Narrator 00:22:54:00 00:23:02:01 All of life is connected.

Narrator 00:23:02:03 00:23:12:08 But for as much as our foxes are living their best life out here in the wild.

Narrator 00:23:12:10 00:23:30:20 The question for us is, how can we maintain this natural balance? Especially when our modern world means that the city fox. Faces a starkly different reality, entangled with the human world.

Newscaster 00:23:30:10 00:23:57:20 Breaking news A new wildfire just breaking out in Los Angeles. Another fire emergency to put new fires.

Narrator 00:23:57:22 00:24:11:09 Fire was never like this.

Narrator 00:24:11:11 00:24:24:04 From the Palisades fire in Los Angeles came a call at 3:12 p.m..

Narrator 00:24:24:06 00:24:50:19 a gray fox had been evacuated from the fire with no facilities nearby. Equipped to handle the situation. The fox found its way to the Wildlife Care network. Oh, yeah. Members. Thank you. Nicknamed Firefox, he's officially known as Patient Fox 40.

Narrator 00:24:50:21 00:24:58:09 We're working tirelessly, and we're doing our best.

Veterinarian 00:24:58:11 00:25:04:13 We're looking for ulcers right now.

Narrator 00:24:05:11 00:26:02:13 Will we heal enough to return to the wild? To the life he was born to live? Only time will tell. For now, this brave survivor reminds us of the delicate balance between our world and the wild. And the courage it takes to endure.

Britt 00:26:19:22 00:26:48:13 I'm Britt, I'm the director of rehabilitation. And something's happened with the Pelicans. More are getting injured and need to be rescued. What we have to do is assess, make sure that the pelican or any patient is first stable, which means that they are able to, kind of maintain their own temperature. They're alert. Before we start any big process, some animals that arrive at the wildlife hospital need more care than just warmth and feeding.

Britt 00:26:48:15 00:27:04:03 They require delicate surgeries. Doctor, El Doretta, a veterinarian at the Wildlife Care Network, is working on a pelican with a wound to its pouch.

Dr. El Doretto 00:27:04:03 00:27:24:03 It's a lot of energy and effort that goes into trying to get those animals stabilized, make sure that they have the fluids that they need, the food that they need. All of the medications that they need.

Dr. El Doretto 00:27:24:05 00:27:39:13 We get a lot where there's a hook going through their their pouch. So right along the edge of their bill. We have to cut that hook out, remove it and then apply any bandaging necessary to help heal that wound.

Dr. El Doretto 00:27:39:15 00:27:48:01 You want to make sure that you're not ripping hooks out. That can cause more tissue damage. So to that pouch, that skin there.

Because of this, like, mini pelican crisis, we are getting a lot of pelicans that we're like coming with pouch slashes or, hook wounds, fishing gear, wounds.

Dr. El Doretto 00:27:48:03 00:28:16:04 And we always get those with more than usual. Once the wound heals, we'll decide if they're ready to be taken off meds, move them through the process of larger spaces.

Clinic worker 00:28:16:06 00:28:33:20 This is, Pelican 3, 4, 0, 6. He came to us with fishing entanglement on him. Yeah, this guy was just brought out into this, gen pop area. So it's kind of a little bit of a check up.

Narrator 00:28:33:22 00:29:24:23 The blood test. Let us know if he's eating, and kind of some other things of how well they're doing out here. And if it's good enough for them. To kind of be maintaining out here before they end up getting moved in.

Britt 00:29:25:01 00:29:38:09 There's really nothing like watching a pelican unfold its wings out of the crate. And hop up onto the beach.

Britt 00:29:38:11 00:29:52:13 And then fly away.

Britt 00:29:52:15 00:30:21:16 Giving an animal a second chance is a great feeling for us.

Narrator 00:30:21:18 00:30:31:19 To the animals. We behave like predators. I mean, think about it. What does it look like for them?

We have large, weird eyes, and we smile and show our big, scary teeth. And then we reach out and we grab them. They get scared, but, I mean, come on.

Narrator 00:30:31:21 00:30:59:18 Can you blame them? A lot of the animals that we get in see us as predators, and so we give them space.

Narrator 00:30:59:20 00:31:10:14 The hospital is inspired by hope and love, but there are serious medical advances here, too.

Narrator 00:31:10:16 00:31:20:17 The center has a state of the art CT scanner.

Narrator 00:31:20:19 00:31:36:23 A CT scanner differs from an X-ray machine, but they are similar.

Narrator 00:31:37:01 00:32:03:11 A CT scanner can generate a multi-colored 3D image inside the body.

Narrator 00:32:03:13 00:32:12:12 Delicate filaments of muscles stretch upon an intricate lattice of bone.

Narrator 00:32:12:14 00:32:17:03 Showing layers of skin.

Narrator 00:32:17:05 00:32:23:14 Organs. Blood vessels.

Feathers and soft tissues. As if the creature has been sculpted from light and shadow. We've never seen nature's engineering in such detail. No one has ever seen what we see.

Narrator 00:32:23:16 00:32:46:15

Narrator 00:32:46:17 00:32:53:14 Now we can see the problem. And we can treat it better.

Narrator 00:32:53:16 00:32:57:22 Being able to see through bodies.

Narrator 00:32:58:00 00:33:08:12 Now that's a superpower to have.

Back to our bobcat. She's bigger and more confident. A lot of the patients that come in, they're incredibly scared. They're incredibly stressed. They have no idea what's happening to them. And so putting myself in the mind of the animal helps me also understand what their behavior is going to be. We need to see certain bobcat behaviors like growling.

Delany 00:33:08:14 00:33:36:12

Delany 00:33:36:14 00:33:42:06 And evading us.

Delany 00:33:42:08 00:33:48:18 Hissing.

Delany 00:33:48:20 00:33:56:06 This bobcat starting to get her wild energy back.

Delany 00:33:56:08 00:34:01:16 A sign she's feeling better.

And so is the fox. Just a few rooms down our Los Angeles Firefox survivor is getting a checkup. She demonstrated all of the behaviors that we want to see for our Fox prerelease. We got jumping. We got landing cleanly. We got climbing. Foxes are great climbers.

Delany 00:34:01:18 00:34:37:11

Delany 00:34:37:13 00:34:50:05 This fox is ready to return to the wild. Most animals are returned to where they were found.

Delany 00:34:50:07 00:35:01:12 But for our Firefox Fox number 40, the damage from the fire means his old home is gone.

Delany 00:35:01:14 00:35:10:21 So, working with biologists, we found a new place for his release.

Delany 00:35:10:23 00:35:17:04 That's close to home. A safe spot.

Delany 00:35:17:06 00:35:31:20 Even though the door is open, it isn't necessarily obvious what to do next.

Delany 00:35:31:22 00:35:37:03 But then they begin to get courage.

Delany 00:35:37:05 00:35:42:20 And explore further.

Delany 00:35:42:22 00:35:53:13

Delany 00:35:53:15 00:35:59:17 And further.

Delany 00:35:59:18 00:36:12:03 And those steps, become their second chance

Delany 00:36:12:05 00:36:50:19 At a wild life.

Delany 00:36:50:21 00:37:00:08 I feel excitement with every animal we release.

Delany 00:37:00:10 00:37:21:18 Each life has a story. Each life is important. They are all part of our interconnected world.

Delany 00:37:21:20 00:37:43:08 I often think about these animals. we release. And I hope they're doing well.

Narrator 00:37:43:10 00:38:01:23 We give life back to thousands of animals every year. And once you've had that feeling. Saving a life. You have hope.

Narrator 00:38:02:01 00:38:17:01 And what's more hopeful than opening the gate for bobcat 145?

Narrator 00:38:17:03 00:38:27:15 This isn't the end of a story, but just the beginning of a new chapter in her life.

Narrator 00:38:27:17 00:40:23:15 In every backyard, each animal has a role to play. The question is, what role will you play in their future?