

ORANGE COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE # 014 *REVISED*****

Date: 9/14/24

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WILDLIFE INFORMATION FOR COMMUNITIES

Wildfires, like the Airport Fire in Orange and Riverside Counties, drive animals out of their natural habitats, leading them to seek shelter in nearby residential areas. This 23,000-acre blaze displaced native wildlife, and residents are likely to come across non-domestic animals in their neighborhoods. While it's not unexpected, it's important to take precautions and to give these animals space. By following these tips, you can help ensure both your safety and the well-being of displaced wildlife.

- **Keep a Safe Distance from Displaced Wildlife:** Animals do their best to move out of the direct path of flames, making them disoriented and stressed. Avoid approaching or attempting to help them, as they may react defensively.
- **Keep Pets Safe:** Keep pets inside or leashed when outdoors to prevent potential conflicts with displaced wildlife.
- **Do Not Feed or Provide Water:** While it may seem helpful, feeding or giving water to displaced wildlife can interfere with their natural survival instincts. Instead, allow them to find food and water in safer areas away from human activity.
- **Secure Your Home:** Close off any potential entry points such as garage doors and vents to prevent wildlife from taking refuge in your home.
- **Remove Attractants:** Keep pet food, garbage, and other food sources secured to avoid attracting wildlife to your property.
- **Report Injured Wildlife:** If you come across wildlife that is injured due to the fire, immediately contact OC Animal Care by calling 714-935-6848. Provide as much detail as possible, including the exact location and the animal's condition, and avoid handling the animal yourself. Additionally, if you have been impacted by the Airport Fire and need resources for your pets:
- OC Animal Care is hosting its monthly Pet Food Pantry this Saturday from 8 – 10 a.m. at 1630 Victory Rd., Tustin, CA.
- For those in evacuation areas, warning or mandatory, OC Animal Care is accepting dogs, cats, and small animals for emergency housing for evacuees. For large animal housing, OC Animal Care has coordinated with multiple stable locations to assist with housing. Residents can also call OC Animal Care at 714-935-6848 for more information.
- Orange County Fair Grounds, located at 88 Fair Drive in the City of Costa Mesa. Owners should call prior to arrival at 714-708-1588 and enter at gate 9 off Arlington.
- Los Alamitos Race Course is located at 4961 Katella Avenue in Cypress, CA 90720. For information, the public can call 714-820-2830. The public should enter at the Stable Gate.
- Nohl Ranch Saddle Club located at 6352 E. Nohl Ranch in Anaheim, CA 92807. The public should call prior to arrival at 714-308-1093.

Release authorized by:  Title: 9/14/24

Email or Faxed/time: _____

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