

NEWS

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Video Credit, Fresno Chaffee Zoo:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/yvu3f3iokbnfa4meai417/Fisher-Kit-1080p.mp4?rlkey=evg9l74prrrxltw58ur4w850m&st=rc63t7yq&dl=0>

FRESNO CHAFFEE ZOO AIDS IN THE REHABILITATION OF ORPHANED FISHER KIT

FRESNO (June 13, 2024) – Fresno Chaffee Zoo has been involved in the rehabilitation of an orphaned Southern Sierra Nevada fisher kit estimated to be 6 to 7 weeks old at the time of rescue in the Sierra National Forest. The young fisher was discovered by a Yosemite National Park Fisher Biologist after its mother was found deceased. It has since been under the care of a National Park Service Fisher Technician (NPS) with guidance from Fresno Chaffee Zoo staff.

Fishers are medium sized, dark brown carnivores belonging to the weasel family, historically found in forested landscapes across North America. The Southern Sierra Nevada fisher was listed as federally endangered in 2020 and has an estimated population of 300 to 500 individuals. The species been the subject of ongoing study in Yosemite National Park and other U.S. Forest Service lands.

“We are honored to play a role in the recovery of this endangered species and help our partners in a time of need, coming together to save wildlife,” said Nicole Presley, General Curator at Fresno Chaffee Zoo. “Our goal is to ensure the fisher kit is healthy and strong, ultimately preparing it for a successful return to its natural habitat.”

The fisher kit arrived at Fresno Chaffee Zoo on May 15th to receive neonatal care by NPS Fisher Technicians under the guidance of the Zoo’s veterinary team as well as veterinarians from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. During this period, the veterinary team has worked on stabilizing the animal, getting him feeding on a bottle as well as doing regular health checks. The fisher kit has shown remarkable progress with both eyes now open and a rapid weight gain. Staff adds that the fisher is displaying increased curiosity and has been introduced to small portions of solid food, indicating healthy development.

“We are grateful for the amazing collaboration on this project. The expert advice from veterinarians, wildlife rehabilitators, and fisher experts has been invaluable,” said Sarah Stock, Supervisory Wildlife Ecologist with Yosemite National Park. “The Fresno Chaffee Zoo veterinarian has been key to the kit’s progress, and we are hopeful that this fisher kit will successfully return to the wild.”

Following its care at Fresno Chaffee Zoo, the fisher kit will be returning to Yosemite National Park where it will continue to receive specialized care leading to a planned release.

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Centrally located in Fresno, California, Fresno Chaffee Zoo is a 39-acre [Association of Zoos and Aquariums](#) (AZA) accredited zoo. It is home to over 200 different species and features WOW exhibits—from Sea Lion Cove to African Adventure—that teach guests about animals all across the globe and the conservation efforts to protect them. The Zoo welcomes over 800,000 guests annually, offering a world-class guest experience and conservation education to all who visit. The mission of Fresno Chaffee Zoo is to inspire people to care for animals, create connections, build community, and save wildlife.

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