

The Critter Chronicle

Spring, 2018

A quarterly newsletter designed to provide you with information on best practices for coexisting with urban wildlife in Agoura Hills!

PLEASE NOTE:

THE TREE TRIMMING TIME FRAME HAS PASSED. BIRDS AND SQUIRRELS ARE NESTING. NESTING SEASON LASTS UNTIL NOVEMBER. PLEASE LET YOUR NEIGHBORS KNOW ABOUT THE TIME FRAME. TRIM TREES IN LATE FALL AND EARLY WINTER.

Photo credit: California Wildlife Center



In this newsletter:

- ◆ Coexist with Urban Wildlife Event on April 29th
- ◆ New website and team, Poison Free Agoura!
- ◆ Best Practices: Housing mini horses, mini donkeys, goats, and sheep.
- ◆ Oh, rats!



Join us April 29th!

Coexist With Urban Wildlife Event

When: April 29, 2018 **Time:** 3:00 to 4:30

Where: Agoura Bible Fellowship, 5524 Foothill Drive, Agoura Hills

Speakers: Heather Brown, California Wildlife Center and Cathy Schoonmaker, NPS and SAMO

RSVP via our website: <https://www.oldagoura.org>

We are pleased to have **Heather Brown, Development Coordinator at the California Wildlife Center** speak to us about the services offered by the California Wildlife Center. She will also provide information on how to proceed when we find injured or orphaned wildlife. Heather will educate us on the nesting and denning periods for our wild neighbors and give us some good advice on when to trim our trees. <http://cawildlife.org/>

Cathy Schoonmaker, Urban Wildlife Specialist with the National Park Service in partnership with the Santa Monica Mountains Fund will answer questions associated with housing of miniature horses, goats, and sheep. She'll also provide insight on what to do when we find rat nests in our vehicles. [Nature Neighbor](#)



Introducing Poison Free Agoura/Coexist with Urban Wildlife website

Poisonfreeagouratoday@gmail.com

HOME POISON FREE URBAN WILDLIFE WILDLIFE CROSSING



POISON FREE AGOURA IN AGOURA HILLS/COEXIST WITH URBAN WILDLIFE



Poison Free Agoura

Who we are:

A team of dedicated Agoura residents who are passionate about our environment.

Vision:

To live in a city where children, domestic pets, and urban wildlife are safe from the danger of poisons.

Mission:

To provide education to members of our community and help them identify safe alternatives to poisons.

Contact:

You can contact us via this address:
poisonfreeagouratoday@gmail.com

Website:

<https://poisonfreeagoura.com/>

Meet members of our team at the 4/29
Coexist with Urban Wildlife event!



POISON FREE AGOURA

In January, we formed a team with the purpose of providing education on the effects rodenticides and other poisons have on our urban

wildlife, children, and domestic pets.

Recently, the City of Agoura Hills sent letters to area businesses informing the businesses about the effects of using anticoagulant rodenticides at commercial properties.

In the letter, the City Council of the City of Agoura Hills asks our property owners to look at alternatives to using and purchasing rodent poisons.

The Poison Free Agoura team works with Poison Free Malibu.

The Poison Free Malibu web site contains a wealth of information: <https://poisonfreemalibu.org/>

The Poison Free Agoura site incorporates information on Poison Free Agoura and Agoura Hills urban wildlife: <https://poisonfreeagoura.com/>

A big thank you to local artist, Kathi Colman for use of her beautiful painting of P-38 for our logo and marketing efforts. You can purchase one of Kathi's beautiful puma prints via the Save LA Cougar's website: <https://savelacougars.org/> Originals can be purchased via KColmanStudio@gmail.com.

Oh, rats...they're in my engine!

Last month, we had a nest in one car and one car had the A/C wires compromised. Oh, rats! How do we coexist when you want to eat my wires or nest near my engine...what to do?

Here's some ideas:

- ⇒ Leave the hood up on your car.
- ⇒ Store food in sturdy containers.
- ⇒ Trim shrubs and vines and plant mint varieties in the area.
- ⇒ Block small entrances to the engines.
- ⇒ Strobe lights like "Mouse Blocker" or "Rid-a-Rat" disrupt the darkness preferred by rats.
- ⇒ Do not let the car sit for long periods of time.
- ⇒ Honda Motor tape is infused with pepper. The tape is used to wrap the wire harness.

Source: [Mice in your motor](#)



Protecting Livestock (minis, goats, sheep)



As a neighbor that lives near or adjacent to natural habitat, one may enjoy many benefits such as; spectacular views, easy access to outdoor recreation, and wildlife viewing. Along with these benefits, residents living in these areas should be aware that wild animals including mountain lions will visit neighborhood backyards, even if you don't see them! Unprotected domestic animals are at risk of becoming prey of the local mountain lions, coyotes, bobcats and raccoons. Be proactive to keep your domestic animals safe

Here are some tips:

- ⇒ Miniature horses and miniature donkeys should be brought into a fully protected enclosure at night – This can be a protected barn or a pen with a solid fence, flush to the ground and with a roof that can withstand 160 lbs. of weight.
- ⇒ Goats, sheep, alpacas and llamas should also be brought into a fully protected barn or pen (with a strong roof) during the night.
- ⇒ You can make a fully enclosed pen by using a dog kennel and horse panels, or you can modify solid shade structures by securing horse panels to already existing fencing and roof.



Article written by Cathy Schoonmaker, Urban Wildlife Specialist, NPS and SAMO.

Photo credits: Mountain Lion Foundation web page:
<http://www.mountainlion.org/>