

# The Critter Chronicle

Fall, 2020



The “Critter Chronicle” is a quarterly newsletter designed to provide you with information on best practices for coexisting with urban wildlife in Agoura Hills!

The 5th Annual P-22 Day & International Urban Wildlife Festival! 10/24/2020!

**P-22's WILDLIFE WONDERLAND**  
5TH ANNUAL P-22 DAY FESTIVAL

FREE ALL AGES

HUNDREDS OF EXHIBITS

A virtual experience celebrating people and wildlife coexisting across the world

**OCTOBER 24, 2020 - KICKOFF TIME: 11AM PST**

Kids Activity Area!  
Virtual Walks and Talks!

Earn Puma Points  
for Prizes!

P-22 Games and Trivial  
Musical Performances!

JOIN US AT: [www.urbanwildlifeweek.org](http://www.urbanwildlifeweek.org)

Help Us Build The Wildlife Crossing At Liberty Canyon  
VOLUNTEER • SPONSOR • TEAM FUNDRAISING  
Contact Beth Pratt: [prattb@nwf.org](mailto:prattb@nwf.org)

## Don't miss out on P-22's Wildlife Wonderland!

Learn about coexisting with our “wild friends” at this fun-filled event!

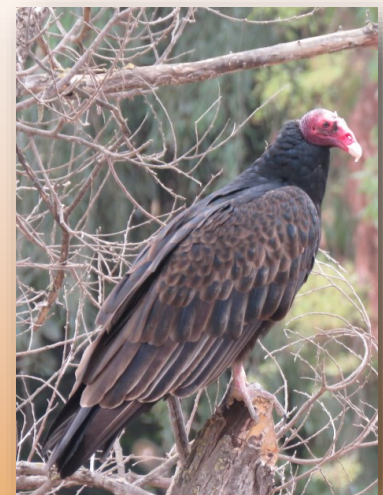
Visit our **Poison Free Agoura** page at the event and watch our **new video on repelling, excluding, and deterring rodents!**

The event is **free, virtual and informative!** RSVP: <https://p22wonderland.org/>

Now, it's time to learn about Turkey Vultures! (*Cathartes aura*)

## Did you know this information about Turkey Vultures?

- ◆ They are in the same family as a condor.
- ◆ Their feet resemble “chicken” feet.
- ◆ A turkey vulture will vomit on who or whatever is harassing it. They can launch vomit up to 10 feet.
- ◆ The average age is around 20 years.
- ◆ After a cool night, they spread their wings to sunbathe and increase their body temperatures.
- ◆ *Cathartes aura* is Latin for “cleansing breeze.”
- ◆ Turkey Vultures can smell carrion from over a mile away.
- ◆ They defecate on their feet when it is warm to cool themselves off.
- ◆ They do not build nests in trees.
- ◆ A group of vultures is called a Venue.



## California Wildlife Center



We are fortunate to have the California Wildlife Center so close to Agoura Hills.

If you find a wild animal that needs help, call the center at **(310) 458-WILD** (9453) before bringing the animal to the center. <https://cawildlife.org/>

<https://turkeyvulturesociety.wordpress.com/quick-facts/frequently-asked-questions/>

<http://www.kern.audubon.org/tvfacts.htm>

# Poison Free Agoura update



Governor Newsom signed **AB 1788** into law on **9/29/2020**. What **AB 1788** does is places a **moratorium** on Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides. **Thank you for making calls, sending in letters and making this happen!**

Many thanks to **Assemblymember Richard Bloom** who wrote the bill and **Senator Henry Stern** and **Assemblymember Laura Friedman** who coauthored the bill!



## Bobcat 372 (B 372) A sad tale about our bobcat.

On **August 27, 2020**, the National Park Service (NPS) press release noted **B 372 is the second bobcat in its 24-year study to have died as a direct result of rodent poisons**. B 372's necropsy revealed she had **brodifacoum, bromadiolone, and diphacinone** in her liver sample. **B 372 was our bobcat. She lived and died in our community.**



On Sunday, **May 31, 2020**, at around 5:00 PM, I saw **B 372** hop our fence and run down to the creek area behind **Fairview Place** and **Colodny Drive**. The next day, I learned a neighbor saw her in the morning hours. There was another sighting on **June 1 at 2:54 PM**. Now, I was worried about B 372. On **June 6, 2020**, she was seen lying in the shade on Foothill Drive and appeared weak and sick.

On **June 7, 2020**, at 6:15 AM, I received a text message from a neighbor on Fairview Place. At 5:00 AM, his dog got into a fight with our bobcat. Thankfully, his dog was okay. **B 372 left our neighbor's home and returned around 8:00 AM**. Then, she disappeared. **Cathy Schoonmaker of the NPS tracked B 372 via her monitoring device**. We set up a trap and worked with the **Old Agoura Homeowners Board of Directors** to send a communication inquiring if neighbors had seen B 372.

On **June 8**, I woke up early and headed to our neighbor's house to see if there were pictures on our wildlife cameras of our bobcat by the trap. **There were no photos of her**. Later that day, I received word that she was found dead across the street. As the Director of **Poison Free Agoura**, I realized my sadness needed to turn to action in the form of **more education regarding the consequences associated with using rodent poisons**.



Our **Poison Free Agoura** team provides this type of education. We work closely with the City of Agoura Hills, Poison Free Malibu, and Cathy Schoonmaker. **B 372 WAS** a poison-free alternative. **She is proof that rodent poison kills more than rodents**. Unintended victims such as raptors, bobcats, coyotes, and mountain lions are all known to consume poisoned rodents.

**Poisoned rodents do not die in bait stations that contain poisoned bait.**

Dying rodents stagger about from **3-10 days** and often return to the bait stations to feed again. They can also wander on to your neighbor's property jeopardizing domestic pets.

There are **poison-free alternatives!** **Poison Free Agoura is here to help you!** Please contact us or visit our website. **Photo: NPS**

In **March, 2020**, we installed two raptor perches. We're excited to report raptors and other birds are using the perches! **Natural rodent control!** Did you know one owl eats over **1,000** rodents a year?

In **April, 2020**, we partnered with the amazing wildlife advocate, **Julie Newsome** on an owl box pilot project in Old Agoura.

Julie also designed our wonderful nesting signs.



**Many thanks to our four neighbors** who are participating in the project and the **Old Agoura Homeowner Board of Directors** for helping us with communication regarding the project!

**Poison Free Agoura** has also been working on the project with **Cathy Schoonmaker of the National Park Service** and **Agoura Hills Mayor Illece Buckley Weber**. Visit the **Poison Free Agoura website** to learn more about owl boxes and raptor perches.



<http://poisonfreeagoura.com>



We have installed a **Barn Owl Nesting Box** to help control rodents the natural way!

For information on poison alternatives please visit [www.poisonfreeagoura.com](http://www.poisonfreeagoura.com)

