



IVWP Volunteer Rehabilitation Team

About the Program

The Inland Valley Wildlife Project (IVWP) relies on Volunteers to expand our capacity to care for local wildlife. These volunteers provide temporary, in-home care for orphaned, sick, or injured wild animals until they are strong enough for release back into their natural habitat.

Unlike fostering pets, wildlife care is a hands-off role. Animals should only be handled during feedings, cleanings, or medical treatments. Human socialization can lead to habituation, making animals unreleasable. Our mission is always quiet recovery and safe release.

How It Works

- Volunteers join a species-specific team (for example, songbirds, small mammals).
 - Assignments vary by species and animal age group.
 - IVWP provides training, supplies, staff support and veterinary support so volunteers can focus on quality animal care.
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Volunteer Requirements

- Must be 18 years or older.
 - Completion of the full application, interview, and training process.
 - Commitment to at least one full wildlife season (around one year).
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Volunteer Responsibilities

- Transporting animals to and from satellite locations or veterinary appointments.
- Providing daily feedings following species-specific protocols.
- Monitoring growth milestones and medical concerns.
- Cleaning and maintaining enclosures and enrichment items.
- Weekly telehealth update meetings and charting in the IVWP animal care database.

Application & Training Process

The volunteer selection process typically takes about four weeks after applications close. Training begins each spring in preparation for the busy baby season.

Steps to Join:

1. Apply Online – Submit your application through the IVWP website.
2. Attend an Interview – Interview and discussion with IVWP staff to ensure the role is the right fit.
3. Complete Online Learning – Work through self-paced online learning modules at home.
4. Hands-On Training – Receive practical instruction from staff before bringing patients home.
5. Required In-Person Onboarding Training – Final orientation session to confirm readiness before independent volunteer service.

✨ By joining the IVWP Volunteer Rehabilitation Team, you directly help IVWP protect and return wildlife to the lands, skies, and ecosystems of the Southwest Riverside County.