

# Sulphur Creek Nature Center

## Alameda County Fish and Game Commission Grant 2017



The release of a Coopers Hawk

Sulphur Creek provides treatment and care for over 700 wild animals that are sick, injured, or may become orphaned each year. Having upgraded and proper equipment is crucial to what we do. In the spring of 2017, Sulphur Creek Nature Center received a grant from the Alameda County Fish and Wildlife Commission. The grant was essential in helping our nature center feed and maintain all wildlife we have received throughout the year.

With the first part of the grant, Sulphur Creek was able to order brooders for the hospital, something that the center has never had. These brooders were able to help maintain a large influx of mallard ducklings that we had this year, we obtained roughly 80 mallard duckling this year, which is at least a five percent increase from last year. In previous years, we were only able to house the ducklings in an incubator, and

room was limited for them. With the help of attaining these brooders, we were able to expand the living space of the ducklings by accommodating them in our isolation rooms. These brooders were excellent for the ducklings because it was able to provide heat and security, something that is much needed at an early age.



Mallard ducklings under the 'Brinsea' brooder



Rehab Myotis being weighed

The second part of the grant went toward the purchase of new gram scales for our wildlife hospital. These scales were necessary to weigh out a variety of orphaned birds and mammals such as opossums, squirrels, bats, variety of songbirds etc.

These scales are crucial for recording animal weight for our rehab animals and our resident animals. With our orphaned wildlife, we are constantly weighing out our animals to make sure they are healthy and gaining weight. We have two scales currently, one in our intake room and the other is in our bird room. They continue to serve as our most important tool; we use them to weigh in small intake animals, and even to weigh out food for our animals.



The next part of the grant was used to purchase a Welch Allyn Pocket Scope for our hospital. This has been a great tool in the hospital because it provides us a way to look at an eye or in the ear canal; proving a great way to look at injuries not visible to the naked eye

The remaining part of the grant was used to purchase feed supplies for our over 700 wild patients in our hospital and our permanent resident animals. We were able to purchase one-year worth of mealworms and one-year worth of feeder chicks, as well as smelt feeder feed to the animals. Countless squirrels, skunks, hawks, bats, songbirds and more have directly benefitted from this grant. Their recovery and release is the ultimate goal and with this grant, we were able to release many healthy and thriving animals back into the wild.



Young animals like these owls or foxes stay at our center for 3 months, eating almost 10 mice per day. That is about 900 mice during their stay with us! Your generous grant helped these animals go back into the wild.



We would like to thank the Alameda County Fish and Game Commission for such a generous grant to help our facility do our best to help the wildlife of Alameda County. More information about our organization is located at [www.haywardrec.org/sulphurcreek](http://www.haywardrec.org/sulphurcreek).