



SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE/TIME: May 16, 2013

LOCATION: Branciforte Creek Culvert

TOPIC: Mountain Lion Intervention

CASE NUMBER: 13S-04044

INFORMATION:

On May 16, 2013, a mountain lion (puma) was successfully captured in the city of Santa Cruz. The animal was found roaming through city streets that border the Branciforte Creek which consists of riparian and cement culvert areas. Working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Santa Cruz Puma Project and Wildlife Emergency Services, the puma was anesthetized and examined by veterinarians to be returned to its natural habitat in a safe and humane manner.

At approx. 7:40 AM, the Santa Cruz Police Department responded to reports of a mountain lion (puma) sighting in the 500 block of Water Street. This area encompasses residential housing, businesses and a medical complex. The neighborhood also borders the Branciforte Creek watershed.

Officers arrived and located the puma on May Street near the Ramada Inn Motel. Officers set a perimeter to contain the animal. The animal then jumped over an 8 foot fence into the medical complex at 550 Water Street. Once again, officers sought to contain the animal in a safe location. The puma was herded back to the Branciforte Creek pathway. When followed by officers, the puma jumped approximately 20 feet into the creek culvert. There, the puma eventually bedded down into a growth of grass. Officers safely contained the puma in this location.

Public safety and keeping the puma away from people was the primary concern. A "reverse 9-1-1" call was placed to nearby residents and businesses warning of the loose puma and advising safety instructions. Once the puma was contained in a safe location, preparations were made to prepare the animal to be returned to its habitat.

Teams from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Santa Cruz Puma Project, and Wildlife Emergency Services responded to provide their expertise and assistance in safely capturing the puma. Veterinarians were also called to the scene to assist with caring for the puma and to administer anesthesia. Two doses of anesthesia were delivered by Dr. Chris Wilmers of the Santa Cruz Puma Project. Once the anesthesia took effect, teams moved in to secure the puma into a cage. The puma was placed in a cage and transported out of the waterway by an Santa Cruz Police Department ATV. The puma underwent a thorough examination and fitted with a tracking collar, preparing for release into an appropriate habitat location.

At approximately 7:00 PM, the puma was successfully released back into its habitat of the Santa Cruz mountains.

We are pleased the puma was able to be returned to its natural habitat in a safe and humane manner.

For additional information, contact: Deputy Chief Steve Clark

Phone: (831) 420-5815

To Leave ANONYMOUS information regarding this incident, please call our TIP LINE (831) 420-5995 or use our mobile iPhone and Android App