



Desert Ridge Fox

Southwest Wildlife received a call from the site manager at Desert Ridge Shopping Center reporting they had seen a fox in the center with an injured rear leg. We agreed to drop off a “Have A Heart Trap” to try to capture it. When our volunteer arrived he was informed the fox was between two buildings – unfortunately the space was only 4 inches wide and about 60 feet long! The fox was too far in to reach with any of the capture equipment. They could see the fox’s leg was broken and bleeding and in need of medical care.

Time to improvise, how could we get it out? The site manager and two other employees volunteered to help. It was decided the best way was to lower something between the buildings to get the fox to back out far enough to be reached with a capture pole. Easier said than done..... there was very little light between the buildings so it was difficult to see. If the fox went forward it would come out in a garden center where people were shopping, making things more difficult and more stressful for the fox and the rescuers. It was decided to tie a rope to a long pole, drop it in front of the fox to block forward movement, and attempt to get the fox to back up. Two Desert Ridge employees lowered the pole from the roof while the Southwest Wildlife volunteer looked between the buildings and guided them to the right spot.

It took 20 minutes of coordinated effort to get the fox to slowly back up to where the volunteer could reach him with the capture pole. Gently the fox was pulled out and placed in a crate. Within twenty-minutes the fox arrived at the veterinary hospital to be stabilized, and prepared for surgery. Unfortunately, the leg had to be amputated, but the fox is doing fine and will have a permanent home at Southwest Wildlife. We know that if the fox could talk he would say thanks, to the caring folks at Desert Ridge for helping our volunteer save his life