



Javelina Harness

As a Southwest Wildlife volunteer trained to perform rescues, I got the call about a baby javelina that was tangled up in a rope or cord that the unfortunate little critter was dragging around. By the time I got to the scene, however, the baby and the rest of its herd was gone. A few days later, another resident in the same neighborhood called about that same baby javelina. I grabbed a pole net, knife, some scissors, and a big bag of baby carrots and headed to the callers' home.

A large herd was hanging around their patio. My game plan was to net the baby, take it inside the house through the sliding glass doors, cut the cord off, and put the baby back outside to rejoin the herd. I started throwing carrots on the patio to keep the older javelina occupied and to get them close enough so I could nab the baby. My plan was complicated by the fact that the baby was still nursing, so it never got very far from mom. I definitely did not want mom and baby in the net at the same time!

It took awhile, but finally everyone was spaced far enough apart and the baby was closest to the net. I was able to flip the net over the baby and scoop it up. And not a moment too soon, as I was starting to run low on carrots! Once I got the baby inside the house, the homeowner helped me cut the cord off. We cracked open the door and shoved the little one out to join the rest of the gang. I just love it when everything goes according to the plan!

The cord was actually a hand-made "harness" that someone had tied around the javelina's neck and abdomen. It was very tight and was pressed into the baby's fur. Had we not gotten the harness off, it would have caused tremendous pain and suffering as the baby outgrew it.

This baby javelina's story had a happy ending because these homeowners saw something that was "not right" and took the time to call Southwest Wildlife.