



## Javelina Spa Day

It was late afternoon when a call came into Southwest Wildlife about a javelina that had been found stuck between two walls at a residence in Fountain Hills. Linda loaded her gear and headed out to help the poor creature get out of this predicament, hoping that all that would be needed was a little encouragement to get the javelina to exit by the same path used to enter.

Upon arriving, she found things to be much worse than expected. The space between the two walls at one end was about 8 inches. This tight space actually narrowed to about 6 inches at the other end. The wall was about 30 feet long and 6 feet high. Apparently, the javelina had entered at the wide end and was now stuck at the narrow end.

Linda realized that there was no way she could get this javelina out by herself, as the only way to get this critter out was to lift it up. She headed back to Southwest to get more gear and some reinforcements.

Once back at Southwest, she loaded up more equipment: 3 telescoping noose poles, extra long snake tongs, and a lot of soap and cream rinse (baby powder fresh!) for lubrication. After recruiting Don and Geri to help, they headed out for what would be a very challenging rescue.

After the sedative took effect, Don climbed up on the wall and poured the soap and cream rinse down onto both sides of the javelina. This was followed with the application of water so that the javelina was thoroughly lubed up. A greased pig, so to speak.

Unfortunately that frightened javelina had wedged its head in so tightly between the two walls that they had a very difficult time getting a noose pole around the head. After much maneuvering of the noose poles, and with the assistance of the snake tongs, they were finally able to get one noose pole around the head, one around the nose, and one around a leg.

The rescuers hoped that this javelina had been lubricated enough to get unstuck. However, the lubrication also caused the concern that the nooses would slip off as they were lifting the javelina up and out from those imprisoning walls. They could only hope that they would get the animal close enough to the top of the wall to grab its front feet before it slipped out of the nooses and fell back down.

All three rescuers were on the top of the wall, and they all pulled at once. Sure enough, they unstuck that javelina and began pulling upwards. To their dismay, their worst fear materialized. Just as they got the javelina near the top of the wall, the nooses started to slip loose. However, this was one lucky javelina. They were able to grab both front hooves just before the animal fell back down.

After pulling the javelina to safety, they discovered that the now-baby powder-fresh javelina was not only a female, but pregnant! They loaded up their sleeping beauty and drove back to Southwest Wildlife. There, she received a bath to remove all the soap and cream rinse. Then, she was treated to a blow dry!

As she appeared unharmed by her “day at the spa”, she will soon be released. The volunteers noted that this was the very first time—and probably the last!—that they had returned from a javelina rescue smelling better than when they had set out!