



Mother's Day Skunk

In late March Southwest Wildlife received a call asking us to rescue a skunk. She was seen on the Adobe Mountain Preserve for four days straight. She was scavenging for food but was having little success as she was dragging her hind legs. Unable to feed herself or protect herself from predators, she was fortunate to be spotted by someone determined to help her. She was captured and brought to Southwest, where x-rays were taken. The veterinarians at Sonora Veterinarian Hospital diagnosed her with a broken back. There were talon marks on her back and they concluded she was picked up by an owl and dropped from the air. But there was another problem.

The x-rays revealed that she was pregnant and nearly full term. We were unsure if she could give birth but took her back to Southwest Wildlife and made her comfortable. One morning when the staff looked in on her, they were shocked to see she was not alone. With her were three beautiful, healthy baby skunks nursing contentedly. As they grew, she attempted to teach them and walk with them but she could not use her back legs. Her future looked grim. Everyone had grown very attached to this brave new mother and nobody was willing to give up on her.

Then it happened. Mother's day started out just like all other days at Southwest. Linda was making her rounds. She checked on the mother skunk as usual and couldn't believe her eyes. Mother Skunk was walking!!! She was standing with her babies, looking as if she had always been walking. It was as if a hand reached down and made her well as her Mother's Day gift. There was cheering, hugs, absolute glee, and happy tears from all of our volunteers who strive every day to make miracles happen. Mother Skunk will always be our Mother's Day gift, as well. Her success is what gives us all the drive to go on when we are the most discouraged and tired. We will watch her closely and if she continues to thrive, she will accompany her children back into the wild.