



Nurses Rescue Gray Foxes

As our urban areas continue to expand further into previously wild places, clashes between man and wildlife are inevitable. It is when such incidents occur that a sad truth is revealed: some people in our culture just don't care about or value wildlife.

Such is not the case, however, with two particular nurses. While on their way to work, they spotted two objects in the middle of the road. Curious, they slowed to take a look. It is lucky they did as, on closer inspection, the "objects" were gray foxes.

One was not moving but, thankfully, was still breathing. The other was barely responsive. The nurses stopped and moved the foxes out of the road to the shade of a nearby tree. It appeared that a passing vehicle had hit them—but had not stopped to see if anything could have been done to help them!

Southwest Wildlife was called and immediately rushed to the aid of the foxes. It was quite evident that both needed extensive medical care. They were transported directly to Sonora Veterinary Specialists Hospital, where they were examined, radiographed, and treated for trauma.

The fox that was barely responsive was a young female; her companion was a young male. Would the dedicated volunteers at Sonora Veterinary Specialists be able to save their lives?

The male responded quickly to treatment. After only two days in the hospital, he was transported back to Southwest Wildlife. There, he continued his rehabilitation under the care of clinic volunteers and Sonora Veterinary Specialists interns who, as part of their ongoing veterinary training, rotate out to the clinic at Southwest.

The young female was in much more serious condition. She was in a coma and remained in intensive care for a week. Finally, after 14 days of dedicated treatment by the hospital staff, she was also discharged to Southwest Wildlife.

There, like her male companion had before her, she received ongoing care as she continued to rehabilitate.

This rescue is another example of the successful partnership between Southwest Wildlife and Sonora Veterinary Specialists Hospital. Because of Southwest Wildlife's rescue volunteers, the caring veterinarians at Sonora Veterinary Specialists Hospital, and Southwest Wildlife's rehabilitation volunteers, both foxes recovered fully and were ultimately released back to their rightful place in the wild.