Living on The Preserve includes the enjoyment of frequent wildlife observations and encounters! Occasionally these encounters can be when an animal is injured, in need of help or just presents a situation where you are not sure what to do. The Conservancy and Preserve have outlined a few guidelines below should you come across our wild neighbors and think they need assistance. It’s important to always use your best judgement to minimize risks of bites, scratches or disease transmission.

* **All Injured Wildlife – Best Practices**
  + - If it’s a weekday feel free to call or text the Conservancy’s Deputy Director, Dr. Christy Wyckoff, at 831-402-2001
    - If Dr. Christy doesn’t answer, call the SPCA at 831-373-2631. The SPCA will advise on next steps. Depending on the situation, you may be asked to bring the animal in.
  + **Injured Game Species (Deer, Turkey, Quail, Pig, Black Bears)**
    - All game species are managed by California Fish and Wildlife and should not be handled without appropriate permits or permission. Contact Dr. Christy or the (acting) Game Warden, Steve Schindler 1-831-901-6370 if you encounter a deer, turkey, quail, pig or black bear in need of assistance.
  + **Bird Strikes**
    - If a bird hits your home window or car, the best thing you can do is set it in a shaded spot, on or low to the ground, away from possible predators. Monitor it for 1-2 hours until it recovers and flies away.
    - If the bird does not appear to recover and is unable to fly away, please call Dr. Christy. If she’s not available, then reach out to the SPCA.
* **Trapped Wildlife:**
  + **Bird or Bats in House (Any Time of the Day)**
    - Shut off all interior lights, open all doors and windows and turn on the outdoor lights. In most cases, the animal will exit without any additional assistance.
  + **Animal Entanglements or Entrapment** (i.e. getting stuck in ponds, pools, construction fencing)
    - Please reach out to the Conservancy or Security immediately. Keep in mind that animals entangled or entrapped are scared and scared animals can be dangerous. If possible, placing a towel or blanket over the animals’ head to cover their eyes will immediately calm them down.
    - If you’re advised to handle the animal and are able to (i.e. birds) always be careful of talons, beaks, hoofs, etc. Use your best judgement to minimize risk of bites, scratches or disease transmission.
* **Baby Animals**
  + - If you come across a fawn in the grass, please leave it. Do not move it or touch it. Fawns are hardwired to stay still and not run. The does may leave the fawn in the grass for up to 10 hours a day for the first weeks of their life, until they can keep up. Removing the fawn from the location where their mother left them will result in them being orphaned.
    - As a general rule do not pick up, disturb or touch baby animals because mom is likely nearby.
    - If a bird falls out of a nest and you are able to locate the nest you can replace the bird in the nest. If the nest is not visible or unreachable you can place the bird in a basket or a safe crook in the tree and the parents will often continue to care for the chick.
    - When in doubt, reach out to the Conservancy or the SPCA with additional concerns or questions.
* **Dead Animals**
  + - In the case of a road collision resulting in a predator death (i.e. birds of prey such as hawks and owls, bobcats, coyotes, etc.), please notify the Conservancy to coordinate delivery or pick up of the carcass. The Conservancy will send it to the California Fish and Wildlife Diagnostics Lab in Davis, Ca to test for rodenticides and viruses, as a part of a state-wide study.
      * + Non-predator road kill, please move the carcass off to the side of the road so it does not attract scavengers and increase the risk of another collision.
    - If you come across a mountain lion kill (i.e. dead deer) on a trail, please take a photograph and notify Dr. Christy. If the carcass is in the middle of the trail it can be pulled off the trail. However, if it’s not impeding the trail we recommend leaving the carcass for the lion to return to for feeding.
* **Loose Cow or Horse**
  + - If you see a cow or horse outside of a fenced, electric, or permanent area please contact the Conservancy’s Director of Stewardship, Rodrigo Sierra Corona, 831-238-1477 or notify Security. Security will then notify the Conservancy’s cattle team.
* **Large Predators on Property or on the Trail**
  + - If you encounter a large mountain lion, black bear or coyote on your property or on a trail please:
    - Remain calm
    - Be attentive and aware of your surroundings and where the animal is moving to
    - Ensure pets are on leash
    - Make yourself look big
    - Back away slowly while never turning your back on the animal
    - Make noise (carry a whistle while hiking), talk or play music or a podcast