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For More Information
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First Baby Ducklings Arrive Right on Schedule at San Diego Wildlife Center

Carlsbad, CA – The first ducklings of the season have arrived on schedule at your Rancho Coastal Humane Society's (RCHS) San Diego Wildlife Center (SDWC) at 2380 Camino Vida Roble in Carlsbad. Their arrival is an indication that more wildlife babies will soon be on the way.

SDWC Director Trish Jackman says, "We received 10 tiny ducklings from a good Samaritan who found them in the road with no sign of their mother anywhere. It is possible she got chased away and was trying to make her way back. But it was risky to leave them in the middle of the road without her. So far, all are strong and doing well."

According to the SDWC "Baby Season" calendar, baby duck season begins in March and continues through the end of July.

Jackman says, "There's an explosion of ducklings separated from their mothers during this time of year." The care providers at SDWC will keep them warm, feed them a special food designed for water fowl, and give them supervised swimming lessons.

Raising ducks can have tragic consequences if it's not done correctly. "In the wild, their mothers would keep them safe and warm. They're not hatched with waterproof feathers. That develops as they grow. Their mothers supervise them to make sure they learn to swim, but not before their feathers are able to repel the water. At the San Diego Wildlife Center their enclosure has a shallow pool that allows them to adjust to the water but still stand up. They have limited access, like their mothers would allow."

Jackman adds, "Our goal is to teach them everything they need to know to survive in the wild, but to make sure they're not too comfortable around humans. They need to be ducks, not pets. Even though we'll do a great job with these ducklings, they still have many lessons to learn."

The ducklings are not the first wildlife babies at SDWC this year. The arrivals of baby hummingbirds and rabbits earlier this spring were also right in line with the baby calendar. Baby Hummingbird season begins in February and continues through late June. Rabbit babies are generally born starting in early March and continue through the end of July.

For more information about Rancho Coastal Humane Society's San Diego Wildlife Center and a list of supplies needed to care for the new arrivals visit sdwildlife.org, "Like" SDWildlifeCenter on Facebook, visit the San Diego Wildlife Center at 2380 Camino Vida Roble, Unit G, in Carlsbad or call 760-621-6888.