

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
For
Dead or Severely Injured Large Wildlife
(December 2020)

This SOP is for large wildlife (deer, coyotes, mountain lions, bobcats, and foxes) that are injured or have died on or near road surfaces of MCAS Miramar. Animals that move away from the scene on their own should not be pursued.

1. Contacts

- The following units should be contacted to determine the appropriate course of action if the animal is alive.

- EMD Staff
 - Hours of Operation: Monday -Friday [07:00 - 16:30]
 - Contact Numbers:
 - ◆ Wildlife Biologist, (858) 307-6498
 - ◆ Nat. Res. Div. Director, (858) 307-1125
 - ◆ General Office (858) 307-1108

1b. During Non-Working Hours:

- ◆ Wildlife Biologist, (619) 944-1964
 - ◆ Nat. Res. Div. Director, (858) 883-8085
-
- Evaluate the situation
 - If the animal is only slightly injured, it will likely escape the scene on its own.
 - If the animal is sufficiently injured to the point were it could not transport itself a reasonable distance from road surfaces it will need to be euthanized.
 - This needs to be done as quickly as possible so suffering is minimized.

2. Euthanization:

- Euthanization by the Base Veterinarian is not appropriate because of the residual effects of drugs currently being used and because they cannot properly dispose of large animals.
- A single round placed in the chest cavity, targeting the heart, or one in the head should dispatch the animal.
- If utilizing ammunition is not practical because of the location or authorization by the command, cutting the jugular vein located in the neck is the next best option.
 - Personnel performing this task need to understand that even if these actions are performed correctly the animal may continue to demonstrate motor skills for up to 5 minutes. This occurs because nerves in the animal continue to react to stimulus after the animal has deceased.

3. Disposal

3a: Mountain Lions:

- All Mountain Lion incidences where the animal remains on the scene need to be reported to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The reporting person will need to make arrangements to turn the animal over to the proper CDFW personnel.
 - During working hours call California Fish and Wildlife Biologist [07:30-17:00]
 - Phone (760) 751-4023, if no answer call the South Coast Regional Office at (858) 467-4201
 - After working hours call California Fish and Wildlife Dispatch [All hours]
 - Phone (951) 443-2944

3b. Deer:

➤ Use of Meat/Carcass

- Deer killed on station cannot be donated for human consumption unless inspected by a certified meat inspector. Therefore donation of the meat to a wildlife rehabilitation center is an appropriate course of action.
- Contact Julian Wolf Center to let them know that a deer carcass is available for pick-up.
 - Normal business hours [0800-1600]
 - (619) 234-9653
 - After hours
 - (760) 765-0300

If the Julian Wolf Center is unable to pick up the carcass, dispose of it in a remote area of East Miramar away from any facilities (such as far southern extent of R-03, R-04, R-19, R-22, NS-02, EW-02, or EW-06 – shown on Sensitive Resources map, where circling vultures will not present a BASH hazard to approaching aircraft

3c. Coyotes, Bobcats, and Foxes:

- Carcasses of these animals need to be relocated to remote areas of East Miramar, east of Aqueduct Road (NS4). Do not dispose of carcasses near housing or military facilities.

4. Notification:

- Environmental Management Department needs an after action report for all instances when this SOP is used. This information is needed for MCAS Miramar's internal records, and so that the proper agencies can be notified.

Required information at a minimum, should include:

- Species of animal
- Location of accident/incident
- Cause of death/injury
- Time of death/injury
- Sex of the animal
- Any associated circumstances
- Disposal action taken, including disposal location