

Waiting for Rosie –

How a coyote brought our community together and taught us how much we didn't know about the world we live in everyday.

About six months ago, a strange-looking animal appeared in our Laurel Canyon neighborhood. It had a canine form and was hairless, dark gray, and emaciated, and with several open wounds on its back and flanks. It was the saddest animal anyone here had ever seen.

Sightings, beginning in April 2009, went on for months. The whole Kirkwood Bowl (a Los Angeles canyon community) became fixated on this animal. Some people thought it was a dog; others thought it was a coyote; and others even thought it could be a *chupacabra*. Everyone was talking about it.

Neighbors were feeding it and offering to pay for its rehabilitation if it could be caught. One of my neighbors hired a trapper and another called Animal Control, both of which were unable to catch our mystery animal.

Then I received a photo of the animal from a neighbor and sent it to **Dana Miller**, an animal communicator I work with. She contacted the animal telepathically for us (the transcript of that communication is available). At the same time, she introduced me to someone at LA Animal Control who in turn introduced me to **Valley Wildlife Care**, the only licensed rehabilitation facility located within the city of Los Angeles who intakes all species of wildlife--from birds and reptiles to bobcats and coyotes--24 hrs a day, 7 days a week.

They asked me if I would be willing to set and re-bait a trap to try to catch this animal, which they believed (correctly as it turned out) to be a **very young female coyote** in the late stages of sarcoptic mange. They said that if the animal was not trapped and treated by late November, it would surely perish from hypothermia when winter weather set in.

This was the beginning of a **two-month odyssey involving the entire Kirkwood Bowl**, with volunteers with walkie-talkies manning individual traps morning and evening; two veterinarians; LA Animal Services; the **Laurel Canyon community**; and a police marksman – all of whom donated their time to assist this animal in need.

About a month into the rescue project, someone named this coyote **Rosie** and the name stuck. She eluded us many times. She was very intelligent. We even had days when we had ten volunteers with walkie-talkies scouring the canyon looking for her from five in the morning to seven at night. Finally, on November 22, 2009, **she went into a trap in my garden** just before the cold winter weather set in.

In the process, we not only **learned about coyotes and their positive relationship with us** and our neighborhood (a fact most people are not aware of and one of the main reasons I'm writing this letter) , but we learned about all the other animals that live with us – the opossums, skunks, hawks, raccoons and all the other animals that we see every day in all of our neighborhoods and know virtually nothing about.

We also learned that much of the information available about wildlife is misleading, and many times fatal for the animals; and, in turn, is extremely detrimental to us and to our country.

Rosie's story goes a long way in turning around the misconceptions most people have about the wildlife we live with every day – coyotes in particular. It can help prevent events such the needless shooting of nine coyotes in Griffith (due to human ignorance), the illegal coyote culling at the Huntington Library and it can save cities a substantial amount of money in a time of budget crisis.

There are too few voices speaking out for the plight of urban wildlife – there needs to be more, since we all interact everyday and most people are totally uninformed as to the true nature of this relationship. Things as simple as not feeding white bread to birds. Or putting up Barn Owl boxes because a Barn Owl parents with a brood (nest) of up to 10 young, owlets' will consume as many as ten rats a night. Or, the fact that a bat can eat 600 mosquitoes an hour.

This is also a story of considerable human interest – not just here in Los Angeles but in every city in the country.

As a society we have a dysfunctional relationship with the natural every day environment that we live in. Any help in spreading accurate information will not only aid our indigenous wildlife but ourselves, and our city. I believe an article written by you could help this effort greatly.

All of this is happening because of a small female coyote named Rosie and a community that cared about more than just itself. I know other communities can learn from this.

Rosie is now rehabilitated, been set free again , and now back in the community she grew up in. No one has seen her. Time to ask Dana to communicate with her again. Everyone wants to know anything about how Rosie is doing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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