CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL REGULATION
111 EAST FIRST STREET

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Sam Yorty has urged public participation in wildlife conservation in the City of Los Angeles. Speaking relative to national Wildlife Week proclaimed by President Nixon, Yorty said:

"Many people are unaware that we have a problem with wild animals in the City. Yet it's true.

"Because the City has such vast forested and mountainous areas, we have an extraordinary number of wild animals in our midst," Yorty added. "Our situation is unique among urban centers. It behooves all of us to assist in properly policing and protecting these wild creatures."

In the past three years the types of mammals, birds, fish and other wildlife threatened by extinction have grown from 78 to 89.

The mayor reminded City residents, especially those living in proximity to wooded areas, to alert the City's Department of Animal Regulation upon observing any wild animal in distress. Telephone numbers of the department's five Animal Shelters are listed in all metropolitan directories.

Department General Manager Robert I. Rush said that prompt reports will bring prompt action. Many animals, out of their natural surroundings and confused by strange environment, have been saved by persons making immediate reports, Rush said.

Yorty commended the Department's wildlife conservation program

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which features weekly relocation of wildlife to Angeles National Forest. Sea lions and harbor seals, found out of their natural habitat, are returned to the ocean.

"Our relocation program is the first of its kind in the country," the Mayor said, "and is drawing national attention."

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