



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**After Months of Treatment Endangered Red-Legged Frog Returned to the Wild**

**Burlingame, CA**—The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA (PHS/SPCA) returned an endangered red-legged frog to the wild at the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve yesterday. The frog had been treated since this past March at PHS/SPCA Wildlife Care Center in Burlingame for a broken leg, including a surgical procedure where an inch long metal pin was inserted into the frog's leg.

"It's extremely rare for us to have red-legged frogs come into our treatment center, and we've never been involved with this type of surgery before on an amphibian," said Patrick Hogan, Manager of PHS/SPCA's Wildlife Care Center. "We are very happy the surgery was successful and we were able to return this frog to his native wild lands."

The injured frog was initially spotted by a biologist for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District who brought it to PHS/SPCA for treatment on March 14. PHS/SPCA worked with a specialist veterinarian to perform a surgical procedure where an inch long metal pin was inserted into the frog's broken leg. After several months of recovery and monitoring, the metal pin was removed and the frog was deemed fully recovered and ready to be returned to the wild.

"We are honored to have been a part of this threatened species recovery and return to the wild," said Hogan.

The red-legged frog is a rare species that can live up to ten years and is found almost exclusively in California. It earned its name by the reddish coloring on the underside of the legs and belly.

In 1996, the red-legged frog was federally listed as a threatened species of the United States and is protected by federal and California law. The main cause of population decline is habitat loss and destruction.

The California State Legislature passed a law in 2015 designating the red-legged frog as the official "State Amphibian" for the state of California.

PHS/SPCA's Wildlife Center successfully rehabilitates 1,200 to 1,400 animals each year and is funded entirely by donations.

Photos of the red-legged frog being returned to the wild are attached and a photo of an x-ray of the frog's leg from March 2017 with the metal pin in his leg. Photo credit to Matthew Chaney of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

**About Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA**

Peninsula Humane Society is a private, open-door, not-for-profit animal welfare organization. Primary programs include animal adoptions; animal rescue and sheltering, including specialty care for domestic animals with medical and/or behavioral challenges; wildlife rehabilitation; animal cruelty investigation; community outreach and education; low-cost spay/neuter; and obedience classes. This vital work is made possible by volunteers and donations. PHS receives no funding from national animal welfare organizations. Visit [www.phs-spca.org](http://www.phs-spca.org) to learn about all PHS' programs and services, ways to help the animals and special events.





