

P-22 FAQs
December 13, 2022

Why did you bring the mountain lion P-22 in for a health evaluation?

P-22's behavior changed recently when there were a number of incidents where he chased, and in some cases, attacked dogs that were in close proximity to people. This was not something that had been seen during the first 10 years of tracking him, and it is something that is rare for mountain lions generally. In recent months, he also made a number of forays into very dense urban areas in Los Feliz and Silver Lake, significantly farther away from his long-time range in and around Griffith Park, than he had gone previously. Recent reports include sightings, video camera recordings and physical encounters. P-22 is old for a wild cat and these behavioral changes, along with evidence of physical changes, could be indicative of difficulty continuing to thrive in the wild.

What were the findings of the evaluation?

Initial examination findings showed that P-22 is significantly underweight, has a thin fur coat, and has a right eye injury, most consistent with recent vehicular trauma. He was given fluids with vitamins to correct dehydration, anti-inflammatory and antibiotic medications for the eye trauma, and anti-parasitic medications. He recovered smoothly from anesthesia and was transported to a veterinary medical health hospital experienced in care of wild animals for monitoring and further veterinary evaluation. He was resting calmly overnight. Some laboratory results from samples collected yesterday are still pending. Today he has been resting comfortably, in a quiet area of the hospital facility away from people. His behavior, appetite and comfort are being monitored using surveillance cameras.

Was he struck by a vehicle?

There was a report of a vehicle striking a mountain lion in the Los Feliz area. It may have been P-22 as his collar data suggests he was in the area at that time, but no one has come forward to report an accident, therefore we cannot confirm he was hit by a car at this time.

What are the options/next steps for P-22?

Following a complete evaluation by an expert wildlife health team, CDFW and NPS will make the most humane decision for P-22. All options are still on the table. CDFW and NPS have long partnered on issues related to P-22 and will work together to find the most humane option available for the lion and the community in which he lives. Assuming he cannot be re-released, CDFW and NPS have already been in contact with leading institutions for animal care and rehabilitation centers. Generally, captivity for a wild animal is not an ideal option. CDFW and NPS will assess P-22 both from a health and behavioral wellness standpoint if continued human care is suitable for him.

When will a decision be made?

P-22's condition is being closely monitored. A follow up examination including a CT-scan to further assess the eye injury and look for other potential chronic health issues that may have caused his decline in condition is planned for later this week. It may take a few weeks to fully determine the extent of P-22's health issues.

A decision on his outcome will depend on the extent of his health issues, his response to treatments and his behavioral comfort in human care.

Why are you not disclosing the location of P-22 at this time?

The hospital has requested to not take media inquiries at this time so they can focus their effort on meeting P-22's care needs. He is at an excellent hospital receiving world-class care.

Why has NPS been tracking this lion?

The National Park Service has been studying how mountain lions live and survive in an highly fragmented and urbanized landscape since 2002. Researchers have studied more than 100 mountain lions in and around the Santa Monica Mountains north of Los Angeles. GPS radio-collars provide detailed information about the animals' ecology and behavior.

What is CDFW's role in mountain lions and P-22?

CDFW is the agency responsible for management of all wildlife in the state, including mountain lions.

What are the confirmed/unconfirmed P-22 encounters?

Confirmed:

There have been multiple sightings of P-22 on house security camera footage over the years. The following are the more recent incidents involving encounters with dogs and people:

Nov. 9, 2022 - P-22 attacked and killed a chihuahua on leash being walked by a dog-walker in the Hollywood Hills, near the Hollywood Reservoir. The dog walker attempted to pull the dog away, but it was pulled out of its harness and carried off by P-22.

Dec. 2, 2022 – P-22 chased a man and his dog back up their steps, in Silver Lake. They both made it back into their house.

Dec. 2, 2022 – P-22 attacked a chihuahua believed to be on leash. The dog's owner intervened and was scratched. Both owner and dog received medical attention and survived.

Dec. 8, 2022 – P-22 attacked a dog that was being walked by its owner, and when the owner went to cover up and protect the dog, she was injured. The owner required medical attention, including more than 30 stitches.

Dec. 9, 2022 – P-22 encountered a man embarking on a dog walk in the Hollywood Hills. The dog spotted P-22 and would not move. The man and dog retreated back into the house. There was no attack, this was only an encounter.

Unconfirmed:

There have been multiple reports of a collared lion being sighted in neighborhoods surrounding his long-time home range in Griffith Park.

There was a report of a vehicle striking a mountain lion in the area. It may have been P-22 but that is not confirmed at this time.

How many mountain lions live in the Griffith Park area?

Though more than a hundred mountain lions have been part of the NPS study in the Santa Monica Mountains and the surrounding region, only P-22 has been tracked via GPS in the Griffith Park area. Many remote cameras in and around Griffith Park have also only detected P-22.