



Anthem Bobcat

On a recent, blazing-hot June day, a young couple happened upon a kitten, covered with ticks, fleas, and cactus spines. They quickly realized that this was no domestic kitten, but a tiny bobcat kitten! She had been orphaned or separated from her mother and had wandered around until she could go no further, finally collapsing on a football field in Anthem.

Normally, a healthy bobcat kitten is feisty and would hiss and put up a fight if you tried to pick it up. But this kitten was too weak to try to resist. The couple rushed her to Anthem Veterinary Medical Hospital, where she was initially treated by veterinarian Dr. Cohn. The staff there removed many of the ticks, gave her a bowl of water to drink, and called Southwest Wildlife.

One of our volunteers immediately brought her to the clinic at Southwest Wildlife, where volunteer veterinarian Dr. Bar-Shalom was waiting to examine her. The little bobcat was found to be extremely dehydrated, so Dr. Bar-Shalom inserted a catheter and placed her on an IV pump in order to begin the re-hydration process. Further examination revealed even more ticks plus fleas, foxtails, and cactus spines. These were removed, and the little kitten was placed in an intensive care unit where she was monitored hourly.

This kitten was so weak and near death that she couldn't even eat. She had to be force-fed a special, high-caloric mixture every four hours. Three days later, she was finally able to lift her head and was soon strong enough to begin eating on her own.

She has grown stronger and healthier every day. This fall, when she will be mature enough to survive on her own, she will be returned to the wild.