



Badger Loses Home...and Attitude

Just as the sun's rays began to illuminate the early morning sky, a young badger returned to his den to rest. Badgers work the night shift, and he was without a doubt looking forward to some restful sleep. All seemed right with the world as he settled in amidst the familiar morning sounds of the Sonoran Desert.

The birds' early morning songs were suddenly interrupted by strange, loud noises disturbing the peace of the desert. A bull dozer was breaking ground for a new housing development. Within days, all that had been there for thousands of years is gone; every shrub, every cactus, and every tree is gone forever. The badger's home and the natural desert landscape that had been home to generations of badgers—and countless other desert wildlife—had been completely destroyed.

The badger fled the destruction. Evicted as he was, without notice, he had no idea where to go. He just ran.

In his headlong flight from terror, he became disoriented. He ended up in town, an alien, scary place for a badger. Utterly exhausted from his ordeal, he eventually took refuge under a car at a Pizza Hut. There, he was discovered by very caring people who took the time to contact Southwest Wildlife to assist the unfortunate fellow.

A Southwest Wildlife volunteer picked up the distraught badger up and brought him to Southwest's clinic to be assessed. There, he was placed in a kennel and given food and water. Following the vet's assessment, he was placed in an outdoor enclosure where volunteers could observe his behavior in a more natural environment for a better assessment.

Although he appeared to be stunned and quite confused, he was physically unharmed. After being given the time necessary to recover from his ordeal, he soon reclaimed the "badger attitude" that his species is so famous for. He was released back into the wild shortly thereafter.