

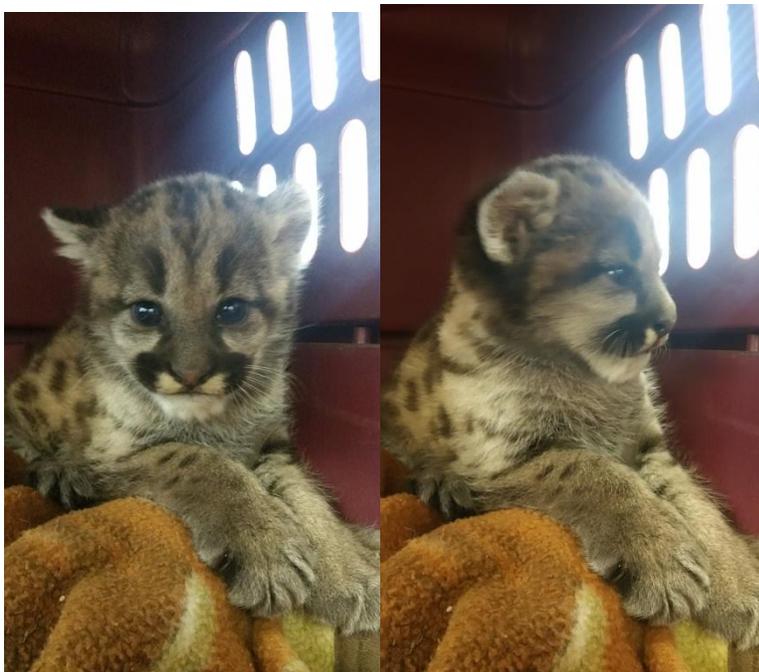
Montezuma County Sheriff's Office
Traffic Safety Reminder

Wildlife and Livestock in our county are constantly on the move and create a risk of serious injury and sometimes death to the motoring public, as well as to the animals. The Montezuma County Sheriff's Office would like to bring this dangerous problem to the attention of our motoring public. Please be alert and attentive while driving our county roads, highways and city streets, with the expectation of encountering traffic hazards like these.

During the night of October 13, 2016, a motorist traveling on Colorado Highway 145, just outside of Dolores, Colorado, collided with a female mountain lion that was carrying her kitten across the highway. A deputy was dispatched to the scene and a young mountain lion kitten was found by deputies and saved from further injury. This kitten was temporarily cared for by our deputies until arrangements were made for the kitten to be released to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, where the animal will be raised until its release back into the wild. Just days before, a local resident was killed in LaPlata County upon colliding with a mule deer. Traffic fatalities occur every year in Colorado due to collisions with wildlife and livestock. These deaths can be reduced by all drivers just by being alert and anticipating wildlife and livestock on our roadways. Sunset to Sunrise hours are the most active times for wildlife movement. Reducing your speed and concentrating on the task of driving, especially during these most active times, will allow you to avoid most collisions.

Mountain Lion populations are healthy in Colorado, and can be found anywhere in Montezuma County. Adults can weigh 130 pounds or more, and mating can take place at any time but most occur in the spring with two to three kittens born during the month of July. Their young are most generally weaned in six weeks, and will remain with the female for a year.

This orphaned kitten will be raised for approximately one year at the rehabilitation center before it is returned to Montezuma County for release.



Sincerely,
Sheriff Steven D. Nowlin
Montezuma County, Colorado