

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 8, 2022**

**Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA rescues three orphaned  
baby House Finches who were found inside an equestrian helmet**

Burlingame, CA---The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA (PHS/SPCA) is currently caring for three baby House Finches who were found orphaned in their nest inside an equestrian helmet.

“We received a call from a concerned resident in Redwood City who found three abandoned tiny nestling House Finches inside an equestrian helmet on April 3rd,” said PHS/SPCA’s Communications Manager Buffy Martin Tarbox. “The parents had built the nest inside the helmet, and unfortunately the parents did not return to the nest for a number of days, leaving the birds orphaned. Our rescue staff brought the babies and their helmet nest to our Wildlife Care Center in Burlingame. We will care for the nestlings until they are old enough to survive on their own, and then they’ll be returned to the wild.”



House Finches are native the San Francisco Bay Area and are celebrated for their melodious “warbling song”. These birds are common sights at backyard bird feeders.

“House Finches are known to build nests in cavities such as openings in buildings and cup-shaped outdoor decorations, but this is the first time we’ve seen a pair of breeding House Finches build a nest in a helmet,” according to Tarbox. “Thankfully someone spotted the vulnerable parentless baby birds and contacted us for help. There is no possible way the trio of nestlings could have survived on their own.”



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PHS/SPCA estimates the baby House Finches are approximately three weeks old. They will be cared for at PHS/SPCA for at least a month before they will be returned to the wild.

PHS/SPCA rehabilitates and returns to the wild between 1,200 and 1,400 wild animals every year. The organization's Wildlife Care Center is funded entirely by donations.

#### About The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA (PHS/SPCA) is a local, private, non-profit charitable organization dedicated to animal welfare. Among our major programs, PHS/SPCA adopts fully 100% of the healthy dogs and cats in our care and, through our charitably funded Hope Program, makes well and finds homes for thousands of animals who come to us sick, injured, or too young to survive without supportive care. PHS/SPCA is truly an open admission shelter, not only accepting many pet animals who might be refused at other shelters, but also taking care of injured and orphaned native wildlife from San Francisco through San Mateo and the northern half of Santa Clara County. Our work means 5,700 lives saved each year. Please visit [www.phs-spca.org](http://www.phs-spca.org) to learn about all our programs and services, ways to help our animals and special events.

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