

**Gray fox shot
Auburn, CA (US)**

Incident Date: Friday, Dec 24, 2004

County: Placer

Disposition: Open

Suspect(s) Unknown - We need your help!

A gray fox was discovered in the Shirland Tract area with a joint shattered from a pellet wound. The fox was taken to Companion Veterinary Clinic Tuesday where it was put down due to its injuries.

The fox was trapped live by Joanne Arnold of Auburn, who noticed the fox limping on her front patio deck before Christmas.

"He was holding up his right front leg, but he hopped up and hopped onto a chair," she said. "He was inches from my bedroom window, I looked out and he was all curled up."

It took two traps, several lures of tuna and three weeks before the fox was caught Monday.

The rescue group picked up the fox and took it to Companion Veterinary Care clinic Tuesday for treatment.

"He was in good body condition, but it was not a new injury," said Dr. An LaBarre. "The elbow was swollen larger than should have been, and the X-ray showed a fracture from the pellet."

The fracture was in the area equivalent to the fox's right front elbow. He was a young adult, probably 1 year old, LaBarre said.

Bast said the decision was made euthanize the animal because even with surgery, he wouldn't have been able to function in the wild.

"It's a hard decision to make but we have to sometimes," she said. "He's a wild animal and has to go out and make a living."