

Bales of Hay Distributed for Animals

"Operation Wildlife" is under way in the fire-denuded Verdugo and San Rafael Hills to supply food for the deer and hundreds of small wild animals fortunate to survive the holocaust.

Bales of alfalfa hay are being distributed in the canyons of Glendale and Burbank for the animals, especially the deer. The operation will continue until the animals' natural food supply of bushes and grass returns to the scorched hills.

Yards Invaded

Many of the animals are wandering into the backyards of hillside residents in search of food. Nelson Van Wormer, Glendale Animal Shelter director, said he has received reports from residents of about 50 deer in the city's canyons. They were seen mostly in the Chevy Chase area.

A large number of rats also have been reported around the foothill homes, Van Wormer said. Hundreds of rats are still surviving in the hills, he added.

Two deer were taken into custody by the Glendale Animal Shelter. One, a young buck, was pulled out of a swimming pool and freed in the hills. The other, a doe, was badly burned by the fire and died despite treatment.

Rains Prove Problem

More than two dozen bales of hay, supplied by the Glendale Humane Society, have been set out in the Glendale canyons so far. However, much of the hay was washed away by the flooding rains, Van Wormer said.

In the Burbank hill area, only five deer have been spotted, said Oscar Schaub, Burbank Animal Shelter superintendent. He has distributed a half dozen bales of hay but has noticed not much of it has been eaten.



FOOD FOR FIRE VICTIMS—Policeman W. L. Jarvis, left, and Nelson Van Wormer, director of Glendale Animal Shelter, place hay in secluded area near Brand Park where foraging deer have been seen since fire destroyed grass cover.

Times Photo