PICTURE-PERFECT DAY

IT’S DIFFICULT TO KNOW who had more fun—the horses living at Duchess Sanctuary or the amateur photographers attending a workshop there on a beautiful day last May.

“Many of the horses were curious about so many people being in their pasture,” says Jennifer Kunz, ranch manager. “They followed people around sniffing cameras and playing with whatever equipment they could reach.”

The photography workshop was a fundraiser for the sanctuary, with registration fees going toward the care of the horses. Professional photographer Shanon Goodwin of Illusional Arts Photography was on hand to give pointers, while Kunz relayed background information about the animals.

“The horses are beautiful and photogenic,” says Susan Starr, an amateur photographer who attended the workshop. “They pranced around, posed in the fields and interacted with each other. I was able to get some beautiful shots.”

Shutterbugs interested in the next workshop, scheduled for Sept. 20, can contact Kunz at jkunz@fundforanimals.org or 541-459-9914.

A SPARK OF HOPE

The female coyote pup was discovered in a backyard about five days after the wildfires began. Her fur was singed and covered with soot, and she had burns on her ears, nose and foot pads.

Two days later, a male pup was found on the other side of the Southern California canyon. He was suffering from severe burns on his foot pads.

As fires roared through San Diego County this spring, the number of animals admitted to The Fund for Animals Wildlife Center surged from a daily average of three or four patients to as many as 18. These two coyote pups were among the victims, most likely forced from their dens.

For weeks, they remained in the center’s intensive care unit, healing slowly and growing fast. Finally, the pups were declared out of the woods from possible infection. And to the staff’s delight, they began to exhibit their true nature.

They’re scheduled to hopefully be released in September.

“We’re just really grateful that people thought to call and bring them in,” says Ali Crumpacker, center director. “Amid all the fires, evacuating and returning to their own homes and dealing with their own pets, they still took the time to either directly help or at least make a call to report a wild animal that needed help.”