

I Found a Baby Mammal

Now What?



To Find a wildlife rehabilitator in your area, contact

- Your state wildlife agency
- Humane Society
- Audubon Society
- Wild bird stores
- City Animal control officer
- Veterinarian (wildlife/exotic)
- Coast Guard or Marine Patrol
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Wildlife Rehab Info Directory: (wildliferehab.virtualave.net)

Is baby animal hurt or sick
(bleeding, shivering, vomiting;
was attacked by cat/dog?)

No

Yes

Can you find the nest or den?
Is it intact?

Yes

No

Place baby in nest/den.

Place baby in shallow box close to where it was found.
Keep it warm but out of sun.

Watch for mother for 4-6 hours.
Stay completely out of sight.
Mothers won't return if *any* people or pets are present.

Did the Mother return?

Yes

No

Leave the area.
Baby is OK.

Call a wildlife rehabilitator.

Call a wildlife rehabilitator.

Unable to reach a wildlife rehabilitator?
Call your state wildlife agency or a wildlife Veterinarian.

If you are unable to reach any of the Above, see instructions on back of this page: **"How to rescue Baby Mammals"**

A baby's best chance for survival is its mother

If you find baby bunnies:

- If their nest has been damaged it can be repaired. Look for a shallow depression lined with grass/fur. Place babies in nest with light layers at grass to hide them. Leave the area, or the mother won't return. (Mothers return only at dawn & dusk.)
- If you find healthy bunnies that are 4-5 inches long, able to hop, with eyes open and ears up, they do not need help. They are able to survive on their own. Leave them alone. Questions? Call a wildlife rehabilitator.

If you find a seal pup or fawn:

- Mothers normally leave their babies to feed.
- If baby looks cold, hungry, diseased, or confused, or if dogs, other animals, or people threaten its safety, **call a wildlife rehabilitator** or park ranger.
- Otherwise, **leave the baby alone** and leave the area. The mother will not return if people or pets are present.



From *Healers of the Wild: People Who Care for Injured and Orphaned Wildlife*
By Shannon K. Jacobs
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How to Rescue Baby Mammals

(Only adults should rescue baby mammals. Before rescuing adult mammals, seek guidance from a wildlife rehabilitator.)

- 1. Prepare a container.** Place a soft cloth on the bottom of a cardboard box or cat/dog carrier with a lid. If it doesn't have air holes, make some. For smaller animals, you can use a paper sack with air holes punched in.
- 2. Protect yourself.** Wear gloves, if possible. Some animals may bite or scratch to protect themselves, even if sick; wild animals commonly have parasites (fleas, lice, ticks) and carry diseases.
- 3. Cover the animal with a light sheet or towel.**
- 4. Gently pick up the animal and put it in the prepared container.**
- 5. Warm the animal if it's cold out or if the animal is chilled.** Put one end of the container on a heating pad set on low. Or fill a zip-top plastic bag, plastic soft drink container with a screw lid, or a rubber glove with hot water; wrap warm container with cloth, and put it next to the animal. Make sure the container doesn't leak, or the animal will get wet and chilled.
- 6. Tape the box shut or roll the top of the paper bag closed.**
- 7. Note exactly where you found the animal.** This will be very important for release.
- 8. Keep the animal in a warm, dark, quiet place.**
Don't give it food or water.
Leave it alone; don't handle or bother it.
Keep children and pets away.
- 9. Contact a wildlife rehabilitator, state wildlife agency, or wildlife veterinarian as soon as possible.**
Don't keep the animal at your home longer than necessary.
Keep the animal in a container; don't let it loose in your house or car.
- 10. Wash your hands after contact with the animal.**
Wash anything the animal was in contact with — towel, jacket, blanket, pet carrier — to prevent the spread of diseases and/or parasites to you or your pets.
- 11. Get the animal to a wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.**

It's against the law in most states to keep wild animals if you don't have permits, even if you plan to release them.

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