



WILDLIFE FIRST AID

The goal of caring for abandoned or injured wildlife is to rehabilitate and return the animal to the wild as soon as possible with minimal human contact. You can make the difference for abandoned or injured wildlife by following these guidelines.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO KEEP OR CARE FOR WILDLIFE WITHOUT A PERMIT OR LICENSE.

OBSERVE THE ANIMAL

Do not assume that the animal has been abandoned. Many baby animals are left alone by their parents for extended periods of time while they search for food. The older the baby is the longer the parent may be away. Remember a baby's best chance of survival is with its parent.

- If the animal is not injured and is in a secure area away from predators, leave it alone and watch to see if the parents come back.
- If the animal is not injured but not in a secure area, move it to a safe place that is away from predators.
- If the parents have not come back for several hours it is possible the animal has been orphaned and will need care.

HOW TO CARE FOR ABANDONED OR INJURED WILDLIFE

Get the animal to a wildlife care center or veterinarian as soon as possible

- Contact your local humane society, animal hospital or wildlife agency

Prepare a container

- Place a towel on the bottom of a cardboard box, plastic container or pet carrier

Protect Yourself

- Wear gloves
- The animal does not know that you are trying to help and may instinctively react and try to protect itself by biting or scratching
- Wild animals commonly have parasites (fleas, lice, ticks) and may carry diseases, so exercise caution and wash your hands after handling
- Wash your hands and disinfect anything that the animal was in contact with to prevent the spread of parasites or diseases

Place the animal in the container

- Cover the animal with another towel and gently pick up and place in the prepared container



NOAH'S NOTES

Saving nature in your backyard

Keep the animal in a warm, dark, quiet place and leave alone

- This helps the animal feel secure
- Do not handle or bother it
- Keep children and pets away
- Set one end of the container on a heating pad or wrap a towel around a hot water bottle with warm water and place in container to warm the animal and prevent shock

Secure the container

- Make sure the animal can get fresh air

Do not force feed

- The wrong food can be harmful or deadly

Note where you found the animal

- This is very important for release after rehabilitation

BABY BIRD CARE

Most baby birds live on the ground for a period of time while their parents teach them to forage for food and fly and do not need help. The best thing to do if you find a baby bird that is naked or only has partial feathers and appears healthy is to put it back into its nest. The parents will still care for it even after you have touched it.

- If the nest is too high, destroyed or cannot be found, make a new one using any small container such as a berry box or basket
- Line the container with dry grass paper
- Secure as high up in a tree in the shade as you can safely reach
- Place the baby bird in the nest and observe for several hours to see if the parents return.
- If the parents do not return follow the directions in the Wildlife Care section above and take the baby to a wildlife care center.

Do not feed baby birds with eyedroppers or attempt to make them drink. The wrong food or improper feeding can kill them.

BABY BUNNY CARE

- Healthy bunnies that are 4 – 5 inches long, able to hop, with eyes open and ears up do not need help. Leave them alone.
- Place babies back in the nest with light layers of grass to hide them. If the nest has been damaged it can be repaired.
- Leave the area, or the mother won't return
- Mothers usually return by dawn and dusk
- If the parents do not return follow the directions in the Wildlife Care section above and take the baby bunny to a wildlife care center



NOAH'S NOTES

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UNWANTED TENANTS

Try these steps, one at a time, to discourage animals from living in attics and other spaces

Make the area smell unpleasant

- Make sure the attic or space is well vented and receives fresh air
- Pour a small amount of ammonia on a small rag to create an unpleasant odor but not enough to create deadly fumes for animals or humans
- When the animal is away place the rag in the space occupied by the animal

Make it look unpleasant

- Keep a bright light on in the area

Make it sound unpleasant

- Turn on a loud radio in the area

Secure entry areas

- Give animals time to move themselves and young out – usually 3 to 4 days – then secure all entrances so nothing can get back in.

WILDLIFE TIPS

Do not feed wildlife

- Many wild animals are killed every year because they lose their fear of humans through feeding and become a nuisance or threat
- Feeding or handling wildlife is dangerous and illegal
- Feeding an animal the wrong food can be deadly

Do not release balloons outside

- Balloons are not biodegradable and injure and kill wildlife.
- Many marine animals, like turtles and dolphins, get sick and die from eating balloons they mistake for jellyfish and other sea creatures
- Birds and small animals get entangled in strings from balloons caught in trees and die

Properly dispose of all trash

- Thousands of birds and marine creatures are killed every year by improperly discarded fishing line and plastic bags
- Cut apart six-pack rings and plastic bottle connectors before disposing

Check for animals in your yard

- Do not cut down trees without looking to see if there is an animal's nest
- Check other areas of your yard before making modifications

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Wild Animal Help Humane Society](#)

[Injured/Orphaned Wildlife Back to Nature Wildlife Refuge](#)

For more information visit noahsnotes.org.

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