

# WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A BABY MAMMAL...

Is the baby mammal a rabbit, deer fawn, or opossum?

**NO**

**Yes (See page 2)**

Is the baby mammal hurt or sick? Is it bleeding, vomiting, shivering, lethargic, or attacked by an animal?

**NO**

**Yes**

Can you find the nest or den? Is it in tact?

Call A Wildlife Rehabilitator

**NO**

**Yes**

Place the baby in a surrogate nest (see below), close to where it was found and off the ground. Keep all pets and people away and watch from a distance.

Place the baby in the nest or den. Keep all pets and people away and watch from a distance. (Remember to wear gloves)

**Find a NYS License Wildlife Rehabilitator by calling:**

- WILDWATCH.ORG  
877-WILD-HELP  
(877-945-3435)
- USA Wildlife Hotline  
866-WILD-331  
866-945-3331
- Rye Harrison Vet. Hospital  
914-921-2000
- Local Police Department or 9-1-1
- NYS DEC Region 3 Wildlife  
845-256-3098

Are the parents visiting the nest or den? (Note: you may have to stay out of sight/undercover for several hours, parents will not return if they sense danger and may become aggressive if they see you as a threat)

**NO**

**Yes**

Call a NYS License Wildlife Rehabilitator

Leave the Area the Baby is fine and mother will return once the threat is gone.

Keep animal warm, dark and quiet until you reach help. You can do this by placing the animal (with gloves on) in a box with a towel, and a bottle filled with hot water. Do not give any food or water. Keep quiet, away from people and pets. If none of the above contacts responds by next morning, bring to your local vet.

## How to make a surrogate Nest:

1. Find a container such as a basket or box (not plastic, it can fill with water if it rains and the baby will drown)
2. Fill the box with leaves, paper towels or clean soft cloth.
3. Place the nest in the tree or bush closest to where the animal was found, out of the sun and rain, as high up as you can manage
4. Place the animal in the nest and leave the area

**The mother will hear the distress calls and return to the baby(ies) to care for them or move them to safer place.**

**NOTE: It is illegal in New York State to possess any wild animal unless you are transporting it to a NYS wildlife rehabilitator. It is also illegal to keep any wild animal as a pet. Any violations should be reported to the NYS DEC Law Enforcement 845-256-3098**



Weinberg Nature Center \* 455 Mamaroneck Road \* Scarsdale \* NY \* 10583

www.weinbergnaturecenter.org phone: 914-722-1289

Information compiled from paws.org and "Healers of the Wild" by Shannon Jacobs

# WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A BABY MAMMAL Continued...

Is the Baby mammal a rabbit, deer fawn, seal pup or opossum?

Yes (See Below)

## Baby Rabbit

If the nest is still intact, (with gloves or a towel) place the baby or babies back into the nest and cover with leaves, grass or twigs. The nest will be a shallow depression in the ground, lined with fur usually located under brush, in a garden, a lawn or other form of cover. . Leave the area. If people or danger are present, the mother may not return. The mother usually visits the nest at dawn and dusk to feed the babies. Unless you know the mother was injured or killed, the babies do not need to be save.

If the baby rabbits are at least four to five inches long, able to hop and have their eyes open and ears up and there are no visible signs of injury, leave them alone. They are old enough (3-4 weeks) to be on their own.

## Fawn (Baby Deer)

Mothers normally leave their babies alone while they forage for food. If the baby looks cold, hungry diseased or confused, or if dogs or other animals or people threatens his safety, or if you found the mother dead. Call a Wildlife rehabilitator. To Find a Licensed Rehabilitator go to Page 5 Otherwise leave the baby alone and leave the area. The mother will not return if people or pets are present or if there is any danger.

## Virginia Opossum

Young opossums who are five to six inches long (excluding the tail) are large enough to be independent from their mothers. If you find an opossum five to six inches or longer who does not appear to be injured or in distress, leave the animal alone. If you are uncertain of whether or not the animal is in distress, call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. See Page 5

### GENERAL NOTES:

- **DON'T BE A KIDNAPPER**  
Every year, many people upset the lives of young wildlife when they only mean to help. They take fledgling birds, young rabbits or other animals from the wild in a mistaken attempt to save them. **IF YOU CARE LEAVE THEM THERE.**
- If the animal is injured please do not remove any mammal from it's location to be rescued unless you know for sure, the mother is injured or dead. All mammals are nursed from mother's milk until weaned. All species of mammals are weaned at different ages and each species requires specific formula. Feeding regular milk could further hurt or kill the animal . So don't feed any type of milk or water. Just stay calm, and keep the animal in a warm, dark, quiet place until you have contacted a wildlife rehabilitator.

### How to safely contain a wild animal to transport to a wildlife rehabilitator

1. Find a suitable container (cardboard box, pet carrier, shoebox) Poke air holes in it, if needed. Line with clean soft cloth
2. Gently pick up the animal (wear gloves) and place in the container.
3. Place the container on a heating pad on the lowest setting. If a heating pad is not available, use a hot water bottle or a plastic soda bottle filled with hot water covered with a towel. Place it inside the container, next to the animal for warmth.
4. Secure the container so the animal cannot crawl or jump out
5. Keep the animal in a warm, dark, quiet place. Do not give her food or water, Leave her alone.
6. Take the animal to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.



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# WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A BABY BIRD...

Is the baby a duckling or gosling?

**NO**

**Yes (See page 4)**

Is the baby bird hurt or sick? Bleeding, vomiting, shivering, lethargic, or attacked by an animal?

**NO**

**Yes**

Is the bird feathered?

**NO**

**Yes**

Is the baby a nestling. Can you find the nest? Is it intact?

If the bird hopping on the ground, It's a fledgling (learning to fly like a toddler learning to walk). Are cats, dogs or people threatening the bird?

**NO**

**Yes**

**Yes**

**NO**

Place the baby in a surrogate nest close to where it was found and off the ground (in a tree or bush) out of the way of rain, sun etc. The distress call of the baby will eventually bring the parent back. Watch from a distance, out of sound and sight.

Leave the Area the Baby is fine and mother will return once the threat is gone.

Keep all pets and people and any other threats away and watch from a distance.

Call A Wildlife Rehabilitator

**Find a NYS License Wildlife Rehabilitator by calling:**

- WILDWATCH.ORG  
877-WILD-HELP  
(877-945-3435)
- USA Wildlife Hotline  
866-WILD-331  
866-945-3331
- Rye Harrison Vet. Hospital  
914-921-2000
- Local Police Department or 9-1-1
- NYS DEC Region 3 Wildlife  
845-256-3098

Keep animal warm, dark and quiet until you reach help. You can do this by placing the animal (with gloves on) in a box with a towel, and a bottle filled with hot water. Do not give any food or water. Keep quiet, away from people and pets. If none of the above contacts responds by next morning, bring to your local vet.

Are the parents nearby or visiting the nest or den? (Note: you may have to stay out of sight/undercover for several hours, parents will not return if they sense danger and may become aggressive if they see you as a threat)

**Yes**

**NO**

Leave the Area the Baby is fine and mother will return once the threat is gone.

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# WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A BABY BIRD Continued...

Is the baby a duckling or gosling?

**Yes (See Below)**

## **Baby Duck (duckling) or Goose (Gosling)**

If you know the mother is dead or if the baby is injured, call a wildlife rehabilitator.

If the baby is separated from the mother and you know where she is, place the baby close to the flock so she can hear the baby. Watch from a distance> If the baby joins the flock and the mother does not reject him leave the area. The baby is fine.

If the mother rejects him and there is another flock that looks similar, bring the baby closer and watch from a distance If the mother does not reject than the baby is fine.

If the baby is rejected or the mother cannot be found anywhere, call a rehabilitator.

## **How to safely contain a wild animal**

1. Find a suitable container (cardboard box, pet carrier, shoebox) Poke air holes in it, if needed. Line with clean soft cloth
2. Gently pick up the animal (wear gloves) and place in the container.
3. Place the container on a heating pad on the lowest setting. If a heating pad is not available, use a hot water bottle or a plastic soda bottle filled with hot water covered with a towel. Place it inside the container, next to the animal for warmth.
4. Secure the container so the animal cannot crawl or jump out
5. Keep the animal in a warm, dark, quiet place. Do not give her food or water, Leave her alone.
6. Take the animal to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.

## **How to make a surrogate Nest:**

1. Find a container such as a basket or box (not plastic, it can fill with water and the baby will drown)
2. Fill the box with leaves, paper towels or clean soft cloth.
3. Place the nest in the tree or bush closest to where the animal was found, out of the sun and rain, as high up as you can manage
4. Place the animal in the nest and leave the area

**The mother will hear the distress calls and return to the baby(ies) to care for them or move them to safer place.**

## **DON'T BE AN ACCIDENTAL KIDNAPPER**

Every year, many people upset the lives of young wildlife when they only mean to help. They take fledgling birds, young rabbits or other animals from the wild in a mistaken attempt to save them.

Unless you are 100% sure the mother is injured or killed,

**IF YOU CARE LEAVE THEM THERE.**

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# WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND AN INJURED ANIMAL...

1. Stay calm, get help (see numbers below)
2. If help is far, wearing gloves or a towel, keep the animal in a **warm, quiet, dark** place.
  - You can do this by placing the animal on a towel in a box.
  - Place box on top of a heating pad, or soda/water bottle filled with hot bottle.
3. Once the animal is in a **warm, quiet, dark** place, away from **stress**, please make note of the time, location and any information that will assist the rehabilitator/ vet in helping the animal (such as found on the street, or was attacked by a neighbor's cat)

**The purpose of wildlife rehabilitation is to reduce the affect of human impact on wild-life. The intent is to safely return the injured animal back to it's natural habitat.**

- It is important **not** to give them animal any food or water. This can further injure the animal, especially if in shock
- It is important to keep the animal warm, dark, and quiet. These simple stressors can cause the animal, especially in shock to die immediately from cardiac arrest.
- Wild animals belong in the wild, they are not meant to be tamed or taken home as pets.
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How to contact a Licensed NYS Wildlife Rehabilitator

- 877-WILD-HELP (877-945-3435) for a live person during business hours
- USA Wildlife hotline 866-WILD-331 (866-945-3331) for touchtone phones

If a wildlife rehabilitator is not available, contact a local veterinary practitioner who accepts wildlife. During business hours, the following volunteer their services and accept injured wildlife. PLEASE CALL AHEAD

- Rye Harrison Veterinary Hospital 914-921-2000 (Rye)
- Somers Animal Hospital 914-277-3628 (Somers)
- Brewster Veterinary Hospital 845-279-5053 (Brewster)
- Central Animal Hospital 914-723-1250 (Scarsdale)

If it is an emergency or a rehabilitator or vet is unavailable, call your local police department

- |                               |                         |                                 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Rye City 967-1234           | • Rye Brook 937-1020    | • Pelham 738-1000               |
| • Mamaroneck Town 381-6100    | • Port Chester 939-8419 | • Westchester County 231-1856   |
| • Mamaroneck Village 777-7781 | • Harrison 967-5111     | • NYS Police Larchmont 834-9111 |
| • Larchmont 834-1000          | • New Rochelle 654-2300 | • Greenwich 203-622-8000        |
| • Scarsdale 722-1200          | • Yonkers 377-7234      | • DEC Region 845-256-3098       |
| • White Plains 422-6111       | • Mount Vernon 665-2500 | • DEC White Plains 428-3033     |

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Information compiled by Kate Murphy and Animal Nation

# WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A TURTLE...

- If it is crossing a road, pick it up and bring it in the direction it is facing. Turtles are very frequently found on roads for the following reasons:
  - Return to nesting spot (annually in springtime), this is normal behavior. Animal will lay eggs and return to waterway. It is a good idea to contact your local nature center to let them know if the hatchlings have to cross back over a road to return to waterway, They can help monitor and return to
  - Looking for a mate (spring time) turtles will travel long distances to find a mate. They can be commonly found crossing roadways, help a turtle by bringing him across the road the direction it is facing.
  - Basking (spring, summer, fall) turtles are cold blooded and need to sit in the sun in a warm place to absorb heat for energy. A sunny asphalt road can be appealing to turtles, relocate to a sunny rock instead. If it is a snapper, call an expert!
- If you find a turtle with notches or tags on it's shell, it could be a part of a turtle study, call around or search online to see if you can report the turtle sighting. This information is important for research, and you can be a part of it!

# WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A MARINE ANIMAL...

- Horseshoe crabs come to shore every spring to spawn in large numbers, sometimes by the thousands especially around new & full moons. THIS IS NORMAL! Let them be!
- If you find a marine turtle or mammal that is injured or beached please call the NYS Marine Mammal and Turtle Stranded Hotline 631-369-9829
- Often times, your local guard shack, nature center, marine unit, and or police department have information on local, indigenous wildlife & concerns.
- Many waterfowl and other animals lay their eggs in sand dunes or on the beach, this is normal behavior, and often why you find protected areas on many beaches. Please do not disturb the wildlife, this could cause further declination in populations especially those which are already threatened and endangered.

The purpose of a licensed wildlife rehabilitator is to provide care for distressed wildlife. The intent is to release a healthy animal back to it's natural habitat, Although there may times animals cannot be released and/or euthanasia is necessary, the overall objective is to return the animal to the wild.



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