

Supplies to Have on Hand

Reference Materials

- Wildlife Formulary
- Bird Identification Field Guide

Generic Supply List

- Caging appropriate for smaller species
- Gram scale – Digital is easiest to read
- Heating pad or light bulb set up for heat source
- incubator
- T-shirts or sweatshirts
- Baby blankets or towels with no loose threads or loops
- Margarine tubs
- Disposable gloves
- Heavy leather gloves
- Teat infusion cannulas, Catac™ nipples and syringes for feeding
- Feeding tubes
- Cardboard boxes to contain animals or to use as nest boxes
- Fish net or other nets for recapture

Generic Food List

- Puppy and kitten milk replacers
- Caged bird hand feeding formula such as *Exact™* or *Zupreem™* for doves and pigeons
- Mazuri® Waterfowl Starter , duck pellets, Non-medicated chick or duck starter, game bird starter crumbles
- Lafeber's® Omnivore Care
- Dry puppy chow
- Dry cat chow
- Canned cat and dog food
- Hills® Prescription A/D canned food
- Critical Care liquid diet for compromised animals
- Rodent chow and monkey chow
- Frozen mice or beef heart strips for raptors
- Frozen silversides or krill for water birds
- Parrot chow
- Rabbit pellets
- Cracked corn
- Mealworms
- Mazuri raptor Gel
- High Quality bird seed



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Emergency Foods

Songbird Chicks

- May be fed a slurry of warm water and Hills™ prescription A/D canned food,
- Mazuri™ nestling diet (PMI Nutrition International, division of Purina Mills®, St. Louis, MO or
- dry puppy or cat chow that has been soaked in hot water and cut into tiny pieces.

A chick will open its mouth very wide, but will have difficulty swallowing and digesting large pieces of food

Older Songbirds

- May be fed, canned cat and dog food.
- They can also eat soaked chow cut in small pieces, small pieces of fruit, a high quality birdseed and mealworms.
- Different species of birds have different dietary preferences.

Squirrel and Chipmunk

- Juveniles and adults may be fed rodent chow, parrot chow with the dried peppers removed, gerbil mix, or a woodpecker mix of birdseed, dried fruits and nuts. Older squirrels may not recognize rodent chow as a food, but younger ones will eat it if it's the only thing offered. Rodent chow is nutritionally complete and the best choice to offer if the animal will accept it.
- They will love corn and sunflower seeds but these foods are not good for them and should be used sparingly. Unsweetened Cheerios™ are a readily available food that is suitable for short-term use with most rodents.

Raccoon, Skunk, Fox and Other Carnivores

- These species will eat canned or dry cat or dog food, mice.

Woodchucks and Other Herbivore

- These animals may eat rabbit chow, rodent chow or monkey chow.
- Adult herbivores may not accept rabbit chow and will have to be fed field greens, deep green leafy vegetables such as spinach or dandelion greens, Queen Anne's lace, plantain, chickweed, timothy hay, alfalfa, and an assortment of native grasses.
- Be sure the area from which you are gathering has not been treated with chemicals.
- Many juvenile or adult mammals or birds that come to your facility will eat cheerios™, (unsweetened whole grain cereal) , and cut up grapes and apples.
- These can be great starter foods to get an animal eating. This is by no means a complete diet and should be used sparingly.



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Medications

Most medication used for domestic animals can be used for wild animals as well.

Some important exceptions are:

- Ivermectin can be fatal to turtles, tortoises and terrapins
- Any of the penicillin-related drugs should be avoided for rabbits, porcupines, beaver, and woodchucks.
- Dexamethasone: Do not use for rabbits, hares or birds.
- Cephalexin - is not recommended for rabbits, hares, woodchucks or beaver.
- Clindamycin hydrochloride. Do not give to lagomorphs, ruminants (deer) or rodents (including beaver, porcupine and woodchuck.)
- Drontal® Plus - (praziquantel/pyrantel pamoate/febantel)
 - Do not use for porcupines
- Febendazole -Do not use for porcupines.
- Frontline, fipronil: - Do not use for rabbits.



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Wildlife Rehabilitation Organizations

Many states have a state wildlife rehabilitator's organization. Membership can provide a resource for information, networking with like-minded people and moral support should you need it. Most state organizations will provide you with a list of state licensed wildlife rehabilitators.

National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association

NWRA
2625 Clearwater Rd, Suite 110
St. Cloud, MN 56301
Tel: 320-230-9920
fax 320-230-3077

nwra@nrawildlife.org

www.nrawildlife.org

Annual 5-day rehabilitators meeting, training workshops, newsletter, subscription to the periodical *Wildlife Rehabilitation Bulletin*, numerous other publications and manuals. Discounts on symposium registration and literature orders.

International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council

PO Box 3197
Eugene, OR 97403
USA
Phone/Fax 866-871-1869 or 408-876-6153
info@iwrc-online.org
www.iwrc-online.org

Biennial meeting, training workshops, newsletter, technical rehabilitation information, subscription to the periodical *Journal of Wildlife Rehabilitation*. Discounts on symposium & training course registration and literature orders.



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Wildlife Admission Form

Last Name	First Name	Date
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Address

Telephone Number	Cell
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Species	Age	Number of Animals
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Date and Where Animal Found (include town)

Specific Circumstances

Orphaned? Any chance of returning to parent(s)?

List Condition – Injuries, dehydration, etc

Relevant History : What Happened Since Animal was Found?

Was it Fed? Given water? (What, When and How Much)

Who Handled the Animal?	Was the Animal Handled with Bare Hands?
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Was it Cat/Dog Caught and/or	Are There Free Ranging Cats in the Area?
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Additional Information:



Local Wildlife Network List

Mammal rehabilitators:

Song bird rehabilitators:

Raptor rehabilitators:

Snakes/ turtle rehabilitators:

Special Permit Rehabilitators (Rabies Vector Species, Deer Permit):

Rescuers/ Transporters:

People who will “re-nest” animals /tree-climbers:

Nuisance wildlife control operators:

State Wildlife Division

Main Number:

After Hours Contact:



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How to Rescue Infant Mammals

By Shannon K. Jacobs

(Before rescuing 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 bag 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.** Removal of visual stimuli can significantly mitigate psychological stress in any species.
4. **Gently pick up the animal and put it in the prepared container.** Utilize personal protective gear appropriate for each species.
5. **Warm the animal if it's cold out or if the animal is chilled.** Signs of hypothermia in neonatal mammals include inactivity, closed eyes, curling into a tight fetal position, somnolence (sleepiness) and anorexia. It is important to note that unlike adult mammals; very young mammals may be unable to shiver to elevate their temperature.
6. **Put one end of the container on a heating pad set on low.** Extreme care must be taken with any heat pad or lamp as many animals have received thermal injury if they are unable or unwilling to move away from the heat. You may 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. A microwave can be used to re-heat some containers intermittently so long as room for heat expansion is available in the container or the lid is open. A container with an absorbent such as a wet cloth or paper towel (ex: zipper seal plastic bag with wet washcloth) is easy to repeatedly warm in a microwave and is far less likely to leak than a container of water alone.
7. **Hyperthermia can be more lethal than hypothermia.** Far more animals are born or hatch in summer than winter. In hot weather be sure to protect the container from direct sun and never leave it in a closed vehicle in the sun as well. Impress this on the transporter as well. The ideal solution is to include a thermometer in the container and aim for ~85-95°F, but also check the substrate directly below the animal, not just the ambient air within the carrier.
8. Tape the box shut or roll the top of the paper bag closed.
9. **Note exactly where you found the animal.** This will be very important for release.
10. **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.
11. **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.
12. **Wash your hands** after contact with the animal.
13. **Wash anything the animal was in contact with** – towel, jacket, pet carrier – to prevent the spread of diseases and/or parasites to you or your pets. Mammals are reservoirs for more zoonotic diseases (shared by both man and animals) than birds or reptiles. Many



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mammalian diseases and parasites may even be lethal to humans and unborn children (ex: Baylisascaris, rabies, toxoplasmosis). Gloves and other protective gear are the best defense from infectious disease or parasites, even if the risk of traumatic injury directly from the animal is minimal.

14. **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.**

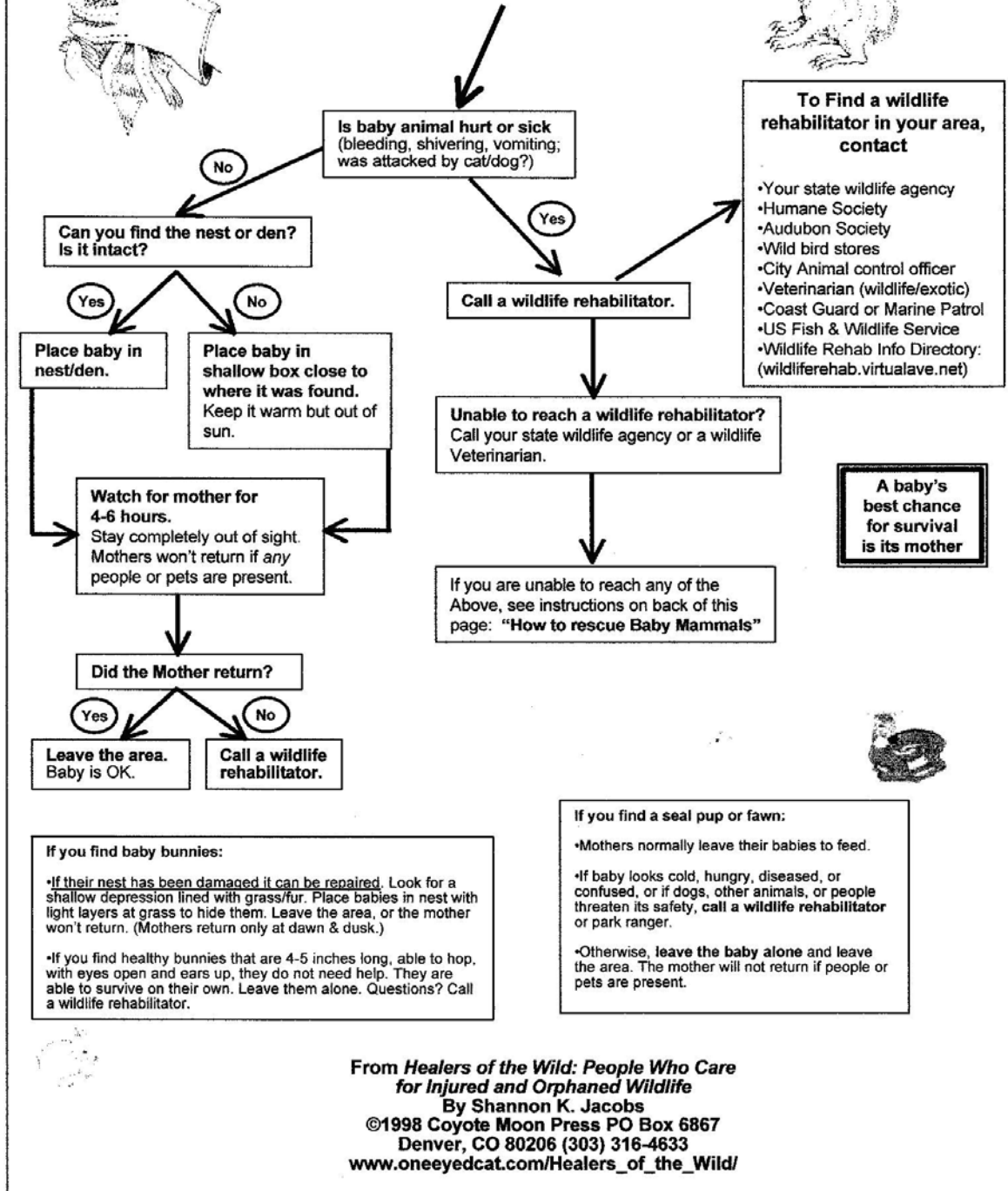
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I Found a Baby Mammal Now What?



How To Rescue Bird Chicks

By Shannon K. Jacobs

(Before rescuing birds, seek guidance from a wildlife rehabilitator.)

- 1. Prepare a container.** Place a clean, soft cloth with no strings or loops on the bottom of a cardboard box or cat/dog carrier with a lid. Soft paper towels may also be used and easily changed when soiled and replaced and have no strings to worry about. If it doesn't have air holes, make some. For smaller birds, you can use a paper bag with air holes. Cloth bags work well and can also be used, but should be turned inside out to ensure loose threads are not inside the bag. They are opaque to calm the bird, cooler and have excellent ventilation as compared to a paper bag or box.
- 2. Protect yourself. Wear gloves, if possible.** Some birds may stab with their beaks, slice with their *talons* (claws) and slap with their wings to protect themselves, and if sick; birds commonly have parasites (fleas, lice, ticks) and carry diseases.
- 3. Cover the bird with a light sheet or towel, unless already in an opaque cloth bag.**
- 4. Gently pick up the bird and put it in the prepared container.**
- 5. Warm the animal if it's cold out or if the animal is chilled.** Signs of hypothermia in birds include inactivity, closed eyes, somnolence (sleepiness) and anorexia. It is important to note that unlike adult mammals, birds seldom shiver when cold. Put one end of the animal's container on a heating pad set on low. Extreme care must be taken with any heat pad or lamp as many animals have received thermal injury if they are unable or unwilling to move away from the heat. Hypothermic animals are the most prone to thermal injury. They often remain in excessive heat as they warm and exceed normal core body temperature. You may fill a zip-top plastic bag, plastic soft drink container with a screw lid, or a rubber glove with hot water; wrap the warm container with cloth, and put next to the animal. Make sure the container doesn't leak, or the animal will get wet and chilled. A microwave can be used to re-heat the container intermittently so long as room for expansion is available or the top is open. A container with an absorbent such as a wet cloth or paper towels (ex: zipper seal plastic bag with wet washcloth) is easy to repeatedly warm in a microwave and is far less likely to leak than a container of water alone.
- 6. Hyperthermia can be more lethal than hypothermia.** Far more animals are born or hatch in summer than winter. In hot weather be sure to protect the container from direct sun and never leave it in a closed vehicle in the sun as well. The ideal solution is to include a thermometer in the container and aim for 85-95°F.
- 7. Tape the box shut or roll the top of the paper bag closed, or tie the cloth bag so it may be easily untied upon arrival.**
- 8. Note exactly where you found the bird. This will be very important for release, or if the animal may be returned post initial exam.**
- 9. Keep the bird in a warm, dark, quiet place.**
 - Don't give the bird food or water.
 - Leave the bird alone; don't handle or bother it.
 - Keep children and pets away.
- 10. Contact a wildlife rehabilitator, state wildlife agency, or wildlife veterinarian as soon as possible.**

Don't keep the bird at your home longer than necessary. Keep the bird in a container;



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don't let it loose in your house or car.

11. Wash your hands after contact with the bird.

Wash anything the bird was in contact with – towel, jacket, blanket, pet carrier – to prevent the spread of diseases and/or parasites to you or your pets.

12. Get the bird 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,
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Rubbermaid® Tub Setup for Waterfowl Young:

1. 30-gal plastic tub with lid. Cut a large hole in the lid and cover with fiberglass screening attached with hot glue or cable ties.
2. Place a heating pad set on low or medium over half of the tub bottom. The temperature on the heated side of the plastic tub should be approximately 80 - 85 degrees Fahrenheit
3. Cover the entire bottom with a soft white, or light colored towel.
4. For ducklings only, arrange a “hide pocket” on top of the heated section of container to provide the duckling(s) with a safe place to retire. The sides of the hide pocket can be fashioned from three rolled towels set in a U-shape around the edges of the plastic tub. The top portion of the hide pocket is made by draping a folded towel over the U-shaped rolled towels.
5. Goslings do not require a hide pocket, but will cuddle against a single rolled towel placed along the heated side of the plastic tub.
6. Place three layers of white paper towels over the cloth towel on the unheated section of the container. White paper towels are changed easily and allow food to be highly visible to ducklings.
7. Sprinkle Mazuri® Waterfowl Starter (PMI Nutrition International, division of Purina Mills®, St. Louis, MO) crumbles on top of the paper towels.
8. Provide water in a small poultry fount no deeper than 0.5 in (1.3 cm). Small pebbles are added inside the lid of the fount to ensure ducklings only have access to drinking water and cannot submerge themselves. If a poultry fount is not available, a shallow lid no deeper than 0.5 in (1.3 cm) and no more than 4” in diameter is acceptable.
9. For ducklings only: any available aquatic invertebrates (freeze-dried bloodworms, daphnia, or brine shrimp) can be floated in the lid or poultry fount.
10. Floated chopped lettuce in the water.
11. For ducklings only: sprinkle live mini-mealworms and crickets on top of the paper towels and in the shallow lid of food to stimulate feeding.



12. The tub setup can hold up to six ducklings or three goslings temporarily until transport can be arranged to a rehabilitator.

Caring for Oiled Wildlife

BEFORE HANDLING ANY OILED ANIMAL, WEAR APPROPRIATE PPE (PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT) TO PROTECT YOURSELF. APPROPRIATE ATTIRE INCLUDES TYVEK APRON OR SUIT AND NITRILE GLOVES. Keep the animal in a well-ventilated area to avoid additional health problems to the animal, you, your staff and other patients.

If possible, oiled animals should be transferred immediately to a rehabilitator with experience in treating this condition. Transfer the animal prior to attempting to treat it; only wash the animal if a transfer cannot be arranged for several days.

Oiled wildlife, like any compromised animal, needs to be stabilized before treatment begins. Treat for shock by placing in a dark, warm and quiet place. Clean the eyes, mouth and nares or nose with gauze or cotton swabs. Flush the eyes using a warmed standard saline eye solution or buffered eyewash.

The internal effects of oil from aspiration, ingestion or absorption can cause oil toxicosis and is just as life threatening as the external effects. Gavage with a clear electrolyte solution at about 15-20 cc/kg to rehydrate while at the same time flushing some of the ingested oils from the intestines. Then administer Pepto-bismol™ (bismuth subsalicylate) to soothe the intestines, and to absorb toxins.

Treatment for oiling:

For the rest of the body, use a warm solution of 5% Dawn® dish detergent to 95% water. When washing birds, wash in the direction that the feathers grow, gently working the oil out with your fingers. Don't push the feathers backwards as you wash, as this could cause delicate feathers to break. Rinse with warm water (about 104 degrees) until all detergent is gone. This temperature will keep the animal warm as well as help break up the oil.

Fur on washed mammals should not look greasy or clumpy when dry. When birds are washed well and rinsed completely, their feathers will be waterproof. **Drops of water drizzled onto the feathers should bead up and roll off when all the oil has been successfully removed.**

After the oils are washed out, the animal should be fed a high nutrient, easily digested solution at 4-5 hour intervals, gavage feeding if necessary. When the animal is stabilized and able to eat on its own, provide food and water in a warm holding pen.



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