

WHAT IS WILDLIFE REHABILITATION?

The goal of wildlife rehabilitators is to provide professional care for injured and orphaned wild animals so, ultimately, they can be returned to their natural habitat.

Wildlife rehabilitators work closely with veterinarians to assess injuries and diagnose a variety of illnesses.

Wildlife rehabilitators are well trained to handle a wide variety of wild species and are required to have state and/or federal permits and facility inspections allowing them to accept wildlife for treatment.

IF THE ANIMAL NEEDS MY HELP, HOW DO I SAFELY RESCUE IT?

Only adults should rescue an animal

1. Place a soft cloth on the bottom of box it cannot get out of or cat/dog carrier. Make sure it has air holes.
2. Protect yourself. Wear gloves.
3. Cover animal with light sheet or towel.
4. Gently pick up animal and place in a prepared container.
5. Warm the animal if it is cold or chilled.
6. Place one end of container on a heating pad set on low. Or, fill zip-top plastic bag, plastic soft drink, screw top, container with warm water, wrap in a cloth and place next to the animal.
7. Keep animal in warm, dark, quiet place. Don't give it food or water. Leave it alone and do not handle it. Keep pets and children away.
8. Wash your hands after animal contact.
9. Note exactly where you found the animal. This is important for proper release.
10. Get animal to wildlife rehabilitator ASAP.

Thank you to the National Wildlife Rehabilitator Association (NWRA) and Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Sanctuary, Medford, NJ, for the information in this brochure.

To Find a Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator for Your Area Visit these Websites:

New Jersey Association of Wildlife Rehabilitators (NJAWR)
www.njawr.com

Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators by County:
<https://njawr.com/nj-wildlife-rehabilitators/>

International Wildlife Rehabilitators Council (IWRC):
www.theiwrc.org

National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA):
www.nwrawildlife.org

New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife
General Site for Species Information
www.njfishandwildlife.com

Can I keep it? NO!!

Keeping a wild animal is not in the best interest of the animal or human safety. The safety and welfare of you and your family must be carefully considered. Wildlife can carry diseases, viruses, parasites, and can cause you physical harm. Keeping wildlife is illegal in most cases and native wildlife is protected by state and federal laws. More importantly, rescued wild animals deserve the best possible care and will die quickly if not fed and housed properly. The best way for you to give the animal the best chance for survival is to take it to a licensed rehabilitator.

YOUR INFORMATION HERE

HELP! I found a wild animal



What should I do now?
Does it need my help?
How do I know?
How do I safely rescue it?
Where do I take it for care?

FIND THESE ANSWERS AND MORE...



Raccoon



Eastern cottontails



Northern oriole



Great horned owls



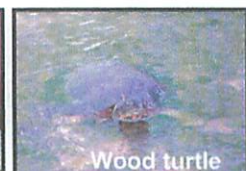
Silver haired bat



Eastern gray squirrel



Virginia opossums



Wood turtle

I Found a Baby Bird Now What?

Is the bird hurt or sick: is it unable to flutter wings; bleeding, wings drooping unevenly; weak or shivering; attacked by cat or dog or other animal?

No

Yes

Is the bird feathered?

Call a Wildlife Rehabilitator. See list on back to locate one in your area.

No

Yes

Call a Wildlife Rehabilitator
It is a naked nestling and needs help.

It is a fledgling
Normal behavior is to be hopping on ground; parents are still feeding it.
Is the bird safe from cats, dogs and people?

No

Yes

Put the bird in bushes or on a tree limb nearby.
Watch from a distance.
Are parents nearby?

Leave the area.
It is OK

No

Yes

Call a Wildlife Rehabilitator

Leave the area.
It is OK

COMMON WILDLIFE ANSWERS

IF YOU FIND A FAWN (BABY DEER)

Mothers normally leave their young in the same spot all day returning at dusk to feed them. This continues for the first two weeks of the fawn's life, until it is strong enough to leave this spot and keep up with its mother.

IF YOU FIND A FAWN THAT IS CURLED UP & QUIET, IT IS FINE. LEAVE IT ALONE! MOTHER WILL RETURN AT DUSK TO FEED IT.

If the fawn looks injured, cold, diseased, or has been crying (bleating) for more than 2 hours during the day, it may need help. Call a wildlife rehabilitator.

IF YOU FIND BABY RABBIT

If their nest has been damaged it can be repaired. Look for a shallow depression lined with grass/fur. Place babies in the nest with light layers of grass to hide them. Place 4-5 pieces of string/yarn in crisscross pattern over top of nest. Leave the area, or the mother will not return. If string/yarn is moved in morning you know mother returned to feed her young. If the string/yarn has not been moved, call a wildlife rehabilitator.

I HAVE ANIMALS IN MY ATTIC/GARAGE OR UNDER A DECK/SHED

Starting in February, animals begin nesting and having young. You can encourage the mother to leave on her own with her young by following these instructions:

1. Remove food sources you may be providing by feeding domestic animals outside, bird feeders, or accessible trash cans.
2. Place a radio in the area tuned to loud music.
3. For nocturnal animals like raccoons, also leave the area well lit.
4. Limit access by closing all but one opening. Be patient for a few days. Before closing last opening, make sure no animals remain inside.
5. Live trapping and relocating is against the law and often ends with the death of animals. If you have caught an animal, look for young before removing adult. Call a rehabilitator for professional advice.

I Found a Baby Mammal Now What?

Is the baby mammal hurt or sick: is it bleeding, shivering, vomiting, was it attacked by a cat or dog or other animal?

No

Yes

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

Call a Wildlife Rehabilitator.
See list on back to locate one in your area.

Yes

No

Place baby in nest/den

Watch for mother for 4-6 hours.
Stay completely out of sight. Mothers will not return if any people or pets are present.

Did the mother return?

Yes

No

Leave the area.
It is OK

Call a Wildlife Rehabilitator