

Research Before You Rescue



Baby Animals

Many people try to rescue “lost” or abandoned baby animals without knowing all the facts. You may have the best intentions trying to rescue the baby but it may not be the best thing for the animal.

Facts to Keep in Mind:

1. Some animal mothers leave their young alone for a time to find food or to lure predators away from their young, so they may appear to be abandoned but are not.
2. Many baby animals can survive on their own at a young age.
3. Many baby animals even with parental care do not make it to adulthood. Death is an integral part of nature’s balance; if some of the young did not die there would be disease, overcrowding and even starvation.

Here are some tips if you come across a baby mammal:

If the baby is not hurt or sick:

- Look for the nest or den and place the baby back in their home. Stay out of sight and watch for the mother for 4-6 hours.
- If you do not find a nest, place the baby in a shallow box close to where you found it. Stay out of sight and watch for the mother for 4-6 hours.
- If the babies are in a nest but you’re not sure if the mother abandoned them you can sprinkle flour around and check back for mom’s footprints.
- If the mother does not come back to the box or animal home call a wildlife rehabilitator.

If the baby is hurt or sick:

- Call a wildlife rehabilitator.
- If you are unable to reach the rehabilitator, you can contact a veterinarian that treats wildlife.
- If you cannot reach any of the above, using gloves place the animal in a warm, dry, dark, quiet place, covered with a towel and away from pets and children until you get in touch with a rehabilitator. Remember, many mammals can carry rabies so be very careful handling them. If you suspect the animal does have rabies call 911 (or 311 in Chicago) and ask for Animal Control.

Adult Animals

If you find an injured or sick animal that is not a baby contact the wildlife rescue places listed above. Do not attempt to rescue the animal yourself, the animal (if it is a mammal) could be carrying rabies. If the animal is normally nocturnal (active at night i.e. raccoons and skunks) and you find it out wandering in daylight it might have rabies, so call 911 (or 311 in Chicago) and ask for Animal Control. Remember, **not all animals that have rabies foam at the mouth**, so do not assume the animal is safe if it is not drooling or foaming at the mouth.

For more info on rabies go to: www.cdc.gov/RABIES/

Rehabilitators:

All Animals

Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation (847) 602-0628

Willowbrook Wildlife Center (630) 933-7200

Birds

Chicago Bird Collision Monitors (773) 988-1867

Diane Spyrka/Animal Welfare League (773) 667-0088

Spring Brook Nature Center (birds of prey and raptors) (630) 773-5572

Squirrels/Rabbits

Animal Welfare League (708) 636-8586

Diane Spyrka/Animal Welfare League (773) 667-0088

Lila Lahalih & Doug Golubski (847) 980-7145

Animal Hospitals:

Niles Animal Hospital 847-647-9325

7278 N Milwaukee Ave Niles, IL 60714

Best Friends Animal Hospital 847-548-2626

1203 N IL Route 83 Grayslake, IL 60030