

Here you will find information and links on what to do and who to call related to sick, injured or orphaned animals.

Birds!

Baby birds are awkward! They fall out of nests, hop around, and whine a lot. This is normal. Baby birds that are fully feathered and have short tail feathers are likely fledglings. This stage takes several days, so it is important to keep pets away at this time. If you find a young bird that lacks most of its feathers and is clearly not able to hop around or is visibly injured, then it may be time to step in. **The best thing to do is call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator to find out the next steps.**

Mammals!

In the spring it is normal for mammals like foxes, coyotes and raccoons to be out and about during the day – both adults and young. This is not a sign of illness. It is also normal for young to be left unsupervised. If the young appear to be sickly, are visibly injured, or the adults are known to be dead, then it is time to call a rehabilitator. Sick animals will often be very lethargic and may sneeze, act disoriented (walk in circles), be emaciated, drool, pant, or shiver.

Things to remember:

1. Never handle an adult animal without first consulting a wildlife professional and without surveying the situation.
2. Always wear thick gloves and other protective materials when handling wildlife.
3. Place the animal in a safe container. Many songbirds can be placed in a paper bag while larger animals may need a cardboard box lined with something soft like a towel.
4. Keep the container in a warm, quiet place away from pets and children until transport.
5. Handle the animal as little as possible and transport as soon as possible. This reduces stress.
6. Do not feed the animal without consulting a professional first. Dehydrated animals can die if fed, and it is easy to asphyxiate the animal by accident. More harm is often done by well-meaning individuals improperly feeding wildlife.
7. During transport, try to keep as quiet as possible to minimize stress.

To find a *wildlife rehabilitator* click here:

http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/rehabilitators.aspx

Information on what to do with *sick or injured wildlife* can be found here:

http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/sickorinjured.aspx

Please, always contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and remember you may have to leave a message. *It is illegal to rehabilitate a wild animal without a license.*

Numbers!

During working business hours:

Department of Natural Resources Wildlife & Heritage Service

Monday – Friday: 410.260.8540

Nuisance Wildlife Hotline

Monday – Friday: 1.877.463.6497

After hours or weekends:

Natural Resource Police

1.800.628.9944

Or contact your county animal control.