



INJURED OR ORPHANED WILDLIFE FOUND

WHEN SHOULD I CALL A WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR?

If you have found an injured or orphaned bird or animal, it's very important to call immediately. Half an hour or an hour can easily make the difference between life and death for the bird or animal. It is illegal to keep wild animals in most states. Injured animals need to go to a licensed wildlife rehabilitation facility.



The best way to help a baby bird that's fallen out of its nest, a squirrel that's been hit by a car, a crow that seems unable to fly, or any other form of wildlife, is to call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. In some cases, an "orphaned" young bird or animal may not be orphaned at all and should be left alone - a rehabilitator can tell you whether or not the animal actually needs to be rescued. (Many animals leave their young for extended periods; the absence of the parents does not necessarily indicate that the babies are orphaned. The mother will be afraid to return while humans are in sight. Anyone who thinks they have found an orphaned wild animal should bring pets and kids inside and watch from a considerable distance.)

If an animal does need to be rescued, time is of the essence in making that call. Because a lot of the animals wildlife rehabilitators get are suffering from shock, exposure, dehydration and/or malnourishment, a delay of even a few hours can decrease their chances of survival. Most licensed wildlife rehabilitators are available 24 hours a day. We recommend that you find out who your local licensed rehabilitators are before you need them — and then you will feel a lot more comfortable calling them in the middle of the night if necessary.