



WILDCARE

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

Non-profit organization of wildlife volunteers in north central Texas providing care to ill, injured, or orphaned wildlife.

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(817)237-8500

www.wildcaretx.org



Contrary to popular belief, animals **will** return to their babies even if they have been touched by humans. The parents will respond to the distress or feeding cries of their young. Follow the steps below to give the parents every chance to do the job nature designed them to do.



www.dfwwildlife.org

WILDCARE rehabbers rely on referrals through the DFW Wildlife Coalition Hotline. The hotline is manned by trained volunteers 7 days a week from 7AM till 10PM.

DFW WILDLIFE HOTLINE
972-234-WILD

DOES THE ANIMAL NEED HELP?

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW AND THINGS YOU SHOULD DO

<p>You have found a baby animal, now what do you do?</p>	<p>Before removing it from its environment, determine whether it really needs help. Animals have their best chance at survival if you can successfully reunite them with their parents. Some animals, like fawn and bunnies, appear to be independent or lost from their parents at a very young age. In most cases, the parents have tucked their young into a safe place and know exactly where they left their baby. Finding a baby out on its own does not mean it needs your intervention</p>
<p>Is the animal injured or sick?</p>	<p>Was it caught by a cat or dog? Is it bleeding or have puncture wounds? Is it obviously weak, not able to use its legs, has a an obvious bone break? If so, see "INTERVENTION" below and call the DFW Wildlife Hotline immediately to get the animal into the care of a trained, permitted rehabber.</p>
<p>Can you find the nest?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •If you can find the nest, put the baby back in the nest and allow the mother 4-6 hours to return. Resist the urge to check-up on things constantly! Keep children and pets away. The mother will not return if you are near – watch from a distance. The species will determine the type of nest you are looking for – squirrels nest in trees, rabbits in ground depressions – you have to generally hunt to find the nest. •If you cannot find the nest, put the baby in a shallow container or box and set it close to where it was found. Line the box with natural bedding (leaves and grass). If the mother is able to find the baby, she may put it back in the nest by herself or care for it where you left it. Allow the mother 4-6 hours to return. •Give the parents a good opportunity to care for their young! The animal's best chance at survival is with its parents!
<p>You re-nested the animal, or provided a container, and the mother did not return... what now?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Keep the baby warm. •Resist the urge to handle it. •Do not give it ANYTHING to eat or drink unless instructed to do so by a trained rehabber or a wildlife veterinarian. •See "INTERVENTION" below and call the DFW Wildlife Hotline immediately to get the animal into the care of a trained, permitted rehabber. Time is of the essence with tiny animals. They can suffer shock, dehydration or hypothermia when in the care of an untrained person. Do not attempt to raise the baby on your own, even if you have experience fostering domestic kittens or puppies. Wild animals have specific nutritional needs and other needs to get them ready to return to the wild. Aside from the legalities associated with wildlife laws, you have already taken measures to make sure the baby is cared for... now you need to finish the job by getting it to the right person for care.
<p>Have you found a fawn?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Countless "abandoned and rescued" fawn come to rehabbers each year with a belly full of milk... these babies have been erroneously removed from their mother. It is normal for the doe to leave a fawn alone for several hours at a time. The fawn will often lay with it's head flat down (called pancaking). Leave the fawn alone for several hours and watch for the doe. In residential areas with deer populations, it is not unusual to find fawn tucked in flower beds, under hedges, or even hidden in a garage. If the mother truly does not return, see "INTERVENTION" below and call the DFW Wildlife Hotline immediately to get the animal into the care of a trained, permitted rehabber. •If the fawn is cold, hungry, sick or in an unsafe area, see "INTERVENTION" below and call the DFW Wildlife Hotline.
<p>Have you found a baby bunny?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Countless "abandoned and rescued" baby bunnies come to rehabbers each year through well-meaning people who have erroneously removed the bunny from its environment. Healthy bunnies are on their own by the time they are the size of a tennis ball or 4-5 inches long. If you have to chase it to help it, it does not need your help. •Inspect it for injuries to be sure it has not been mauled by a dog, cat or other predator. If it is injured, see "INTERVENTION" below and call the DFW Wildlife Hotline. •If the bunny is not injured, look for the nest. It will be a shallow depression in the ground, or under something, lined with grass and fur. Put the bunny back in the nest and cover it with grass to hide it. •The mother spends most of her time away from the nest returning to feed the babies at dusk and dawn.

INTERVENTION

1. Prepare a container – Pet carriers, cardboard boxes, or plastic containers with air holes work well. Line the container with soft cloth, paper towels, or tissue. Do not use terry cloth towels or wash cloths – toenails can get caught in the loops. Old t-shirts or woven sheets work well.
2. Wearing gloves, place a sheet over the animal. Gently scoop up the animal with the sheet and put it in the prepared container.
3. Keep the animal warm – Place a portion of the container on a heating pad set on "low" or put the container in a non-airconditioned area.
4. Close the container, but make sure the animal can get air (do not SEAL the container). Put the container in a dark, quiet place away from pets or children. Do not give the animal anything to eat or drink unless instructed to do so by a trained rehabber or wildlife veterinarian.
5. Wash your hands well and transport the animal to a rehabber arranged through the DFW Wildlife Hotline.

Rehabbers are trained volunteers who receive no state or federal financial support to provide their services to the public. Please consider giving the rehabber a monetary donation to help offset the costs of medical care, food and supplies.