

Injured, Orphaned, or Sick Wildlife

If you find injured or sick wildlife, follow these guidelines:

- Wear gloves and use thick towels to pick up any wildlife. Do **not** touch a raccoon, skunk, fox, bat, coyote, or bobcat without wearing gloves (these mammals can carry rabies).
- Contain the animal in a secure box in a warm, dark, and quiet place with a heating pad on low, under half the box. Keep pets and children away.
- Do not provide food or water.
- Do not handle or keep looking at the animal. The animal is already stressed.
- Contact a local wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible. (See list below.)

If you find baby wildlife, first be sure the baby is orphaned or abandoned. Some mammal mothers do not stay with their babies but remain nearby (e.g., rabbits and deer). A lone opossum baby is most likely abandoned. Fledglings of many bird species spend several days on the ground while learning to fly.

Signs a baby animal is in distress:

- A baby mammal approaches you and is crying. If the skin “tents” it is dehydrated.
- A fawn ear tips flop backwards or it approaches you, and cries. (Removing a healthy fawn causes the mother great distress and she may die from the stress.)

Charlotte Area Wildlife Rehabilitation Resources

- Carolina Wildlife Conservation Center – (980) 389-1133 – www.carolinaconservation.org mammals and reptiles
- Carolina Raptor Center, Huntersville, NC – (704) 875-6521 – www.carolinaraptorcenter.org – birds of prey (hawks, owls, vultures)
- Animal Rehabilitators of the Carolinas - (704) 552-2329 - www.arcwildlife.org - mammals
- Carolina Waterfowl Rescue, Indian Trail, NC – (704) 286-6330 – www.cwrescue.org – birds and waterfowl
- Wildlife Rescue of Charlotte – (239) 810-0899- www.wildliferescueofcharlotte.org – mammals
- North Carolina Wildlife Help Line – 866-318-2401 to obtain the name and telephone number of a licensed rehabilitator in North Carolina.
- NC Wildlife Resources Commission - www.ncwildlife.org/Have-A-Problem
- Wildlife Enforcement at 800-662-7131 for injured deer or bear