

## *Found an Orphaned or Injured Baby Wild Animal?*

*It's common to see baby wild animals outside during spring, as a new generation makes it way into the world. But unless the animal appears injured or in distress, there may be no need to rescue him or her. Signs that a wild animal needs your help:*

- Brought to you by a cat or dog*
- Evidence of bleeding*
- An apparent/obvious broken limb*
- Featherless or nearly featherless and on the ground*
- Shivering*
- A dead parent nearby*

*If you observe the above signs, find help for the animal and, if necessary, safely capture and transport to the appropriate place for treatment*

*It is illegal to keep any wild bird or mammal without a permit.*

### *Found an Animal?*

*If you find an animal that you believe needs help, please call Desert Willow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (575-689-6711) or Living Desert State Park (575-887-5516) for further instructions.*

*The sooner the injured wildlife receives treatment, the sooner they will be released back into the wild. A delay of a day or two means an hour or more may be added to their surgical repair.*

*There is no charge for the treatment of wildlife. Volunteers and veterinarians donate their time to these causes.*

**REMEMBER:  
DON'T DELAY WHEN YOU FIND  
INJURED WILDLIFE, CALL  
IMMEDIATELY!  
YOUR CONCERN CAN SAVE A  
CREATURE'S LIFE**

### **Contact Us:**

*Desert Willow Wildlife  
Rehabilitation Center*

516 E. Fiesta Drive Carlsbad,  
New Mexico 88220 Phone:  
575-689-6711

Visit us on Facebook

## *Seasonal Tips for Baby and Injured Wildlife*



# Seasonal Tips from Desert Willow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

**!!!FIRST AND FOREMOST- MAKE SURE WILDLIFE IS IN NEED OF RESCUING!!!**

## Birds

Baby birds are sometimes pushed out of the nest. Return them to the original nest if possible, or hang a plastic margarine tub with holes in the bottom and lined with paper towels on a lower branch. Watch to see if the parents will continue to feed it.



Small birds (fledglings) spend 5-10 days on the ground, learning to evade predators and how to



hunt for food while their large flight feathers grow in. A young sparrow or dove sitting in your yard most likely has not been abandoned.

## Mammals

Baby mammals are always left alone by their mother when she goes to find food. Do not disturb a baby mammal unless you know for certain that it is orphaned or has an obvious injury. Do not assume baby bunnies, squirrels, etc. are orphaned. **Please call first.**



Many mammals move their babies to a new nest in the first 4-6 weeks of their lives. To do this,



they'll often carry them one at a time from various spots. If you find baby squirrels at the bottom of a tree, or raccoons

together in your yard, leave them be for 24 hours. If they're still there after that, bring them in.

Leave fawns alone. Their first month, mom leaves them alone during the day since they can't keep up with her while she eats. For their own protection, they do not have a scent to them. Their biggest threat are well-meaning humans concerned with the baby being alone.



## Reptiles



Baby reptiles (turtles, snakes, salamanders) are on their own from the time they hatch! Please do not "adopt" them.

## Capturing and Transporting Animals

Never handle an adult animal without first consulting with a wildlife professional. Even small animals can injure you. Unless told otherwise, the following is how you can make an animal more comfortable for transport or while you're waiting for help to arrive.

- ◇ Put on thick gloves, cover animal with a towel or pillowcase as you scoop them up gently and place the animal in a safe container.
- ◇ Raptors: Use caution when handling birds of prey (their feet and beaks are their weapons). A cardboard box large enough to accommodate the feathers without crowding will act as an ICU container.
- ◇ Mammals: Handle as little as possible and keep in a quiet, warm place away from noise. Place them in a box or container that can withstand clawing, chewing, and scratching.
- ◇ Do not give the animal food or water: it may cause them to choke, develop digestive problems or drown. Also, many injured animals are in shock, and eating or drinking can make it worse.
- ◇ Place the container in a warm, dark, quiet place—away from pets, children, and noise—until you can transport the animal. Keep the container away from direct sunlight, air conditioning or heat.
- ◇ If transporting the animal, do it as soon as possible. Leave the radio off and keep talking to a minimum.

