

Found a Wild Animal?



College of
Veterinary Medicine

⚠️ Safety first: Keep pets and children away. Do not feed or give water. Keep handling to a minimum.

Contact and Hours

Wildlife Medical Clinic

Email:
WMCCChair@vetmed.illinois.edu

Phone:
217-244-1195
217-333-5300 (after-hours)

Address:
2100 S Goodwin Ave, Urbana,
IL 61802

Hours:
Mon-Fri 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information, scan
the QR code below or visit
vetmed.illinois.edu/wildlife.



Is the animal injured, was it in a dog/cat's mouth, is it covered in flies or other insects, and/or are there dead siblings or parents?

YES

Seek help now.

Place the animal in a secure container kept dark, warm, and quiet and bring it to the Wildlife Medical Clinic during open hours. If possible, call 217-244-1195 before you arrive.

NO

Does the animal still need parental care?
See species quick cues below.

NO

Leave it be.

YES

Is there a nest nearby?

NO

NO

Contact Wildlife Medical Clinic.

YES

Put the baby in the nest if possible, or make a nest and place it in the same area or nearby tree. Monitor nearby for parents to return.

Is the animal trying to hop, fly, or run?

YES

Are the parents around?

YES

Leave it be.

NO

Monitor nearby for parents to return (30-120 minutes for birds, up to 24 hours for mammals)

Have the parents returned?

NO

Contact Wildlife Medical Clinic.

YES

Leave it be.

Species Quick Cues



Healthy fawn

Distressed fawn

Fawn

Healthy: Quiet, curled, left alone; mother's absence is normal. **Distressed:** Standing, calling, or legs splayed out. If moved for safety, return to original spot and monitor for 24 hours. If distressed, seek professional help.



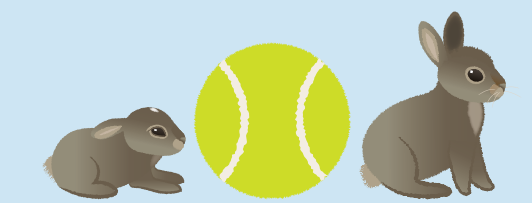
Nestling - needs parental care



Independent juvenile squirrel

Squirrel

Independent: Body length is 6" or longer excluding the tail. **Nestling:** If smaller, place in a makeshift nest with gentle warmth (no direct contact) ≥ 3 ft up a tree. Monitor for 24 hours. Distressed baby calls help attract the mother.



Nestling - needs parental care

Independent juvenile rabbit

Cottontail Rabbit

Independent: Tennis ball-sized with upright ears. **Nestling:** Mom only nurses 1-2x daily. To check for return, place yarn, twigs, or flour in a pattern over the nest and leave. If the pattern is untouched after 12-24 hours, or if babies are cold, lethargic, or injured, contact a rehabber.



Fledgling robin



Adult male

Baby

Songbird/Fledgling

Fledglings: Often spend 3-5 days on the ground; observe for 30-120 minutes for parental return. **Hatchlings/Nestlings:** Return to nest or secure a replacement nest nearby. Parents will not abandon babies due to human scent.

Hummingbird

Adult: Feeder recipe is 1 part sugar to 4 parts water; change daily. **Baby:** Return to nest or secure an egg-carton replacement nest in a tree. Monitor for 30-120 minutes from a distance for the mother's return.



Raccoon kit

Raccoon

Independent: Raccoon is cat-sized. **Dependent:** If parental presence is unclear, place the kit in a box with a towel near grass or leaves. Leave undisturbed to monitor for 12-24 hours. If no changes occur, or if it is crying continuously, take to a wildlife rehabilitator.



Canada gosling

Gosling

Goslings cannot survive alone and must remain with a flock. Reunite immediately with a similar-age wild family group and observe from a distance for parental acceptance. If it is rejected by the flock, or appears lethargic or injured, seek professional help.