



## HELPING SICK & INJURED ANIMALS: Who to Call and How to Safely Take Action

### IDENTIFYING A SICK OR INJURED WILD ANIMAL

According to the Toronto Wildlife Centre, if you have found an adult wild animal that you think may be in need of help, the first step is to check it for signs of injury or illness. An adult animal showing any of the following signs, or who otherwise appears to be sick or injured, will need help from a wildlife rehabilitator.

1. Obvious signs of illness or injury like visible wounds, injured limbs, twitching/shaking, loss of balance, missing fur/feathers.
2. Known contact with a cat—even if no injuries are visible, medical attention is still necessary.
3. Abnormal behavior like appearing sleepy when approached closely, allowing people to approach within 1-2 feet, or appearing blind.
4. Material stuck/tangled on the animal like a can on its foot, string wrapped around a limb or sticking out of its mouth, or grease on its fur/feathers.
5. Animals (including water birds) that look wet when it isn't raining, or turtles that seem unable to submerge themselves underwater, are also likely in need of help.

**\*Baby animals require different care. If the animal appears to be a baby, see page 3.**

### IDENTIFYING FERAL ANIMALS



Feral animals are domesticated animals (typically cats and dogs) that have returned to live in the wild. Unlike stray or lost animals that are socialized (used to people), feral animals live without any human contact or care. Thus, they are likely to be less friendly and open to human interaction. Since feral animals are difficult to keep as pets, they are often captured, spayed or neutered, and released back into the wild.



Feral, stray, or lost animals should be reported to the City of Hamilton's Wildlife Services at 905-574-3433 or [www.hamilton.ca/animals-pets/wildlife](http://www.hamilton.ca/animals-pets/wildlife). The Hamilton SPCA also has a "Trap, Neuter & Return" program for feral cats. To learn more, contact them at 905-574-7722 or visit their website at: [www.hbspca.com](http://www.hbspca.com).

## REPORTING SICK AND/OR INJURED WILD ANIMALS:

### City of Hamilton Wildlife Services:

Sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife require special care to recover and return to their home. You cannot keep wildlife in captivity without approval from the Ministry of Natural Resources. However, you can keep a wild animal for up to 24 hours in order to get it to a veterinarian or other wildlife care provider. While the City does not rehabilitate wild animals, they are able to remove them from your site and bring them to a veterinarian or other wildlife care provider. This service covers most animals including feral dogs and cats.



905-574-3433

[www.hamilton.ca/animals-pets/wildlife](http://www.hamilton.ca/animals-pets/wildlife)

### Ontario Wildlife Rescue:

The primary goal of Ontario Wildlife Rescue is to connect people who have found injured or orphaned wild animals with those who can look after them and get them back into the wilds. This is done through a network of rehabilitators (professionals who help wild animals) and wildlife centers across Ontario which try to save as many wild animals as possible. The second goal of Ontario Wildlife Rescue is to help raise money for wildlife centers across Ontario as rehabilitation and wildlife centers are not government funded in Ontario.

While there is not a Wildlife Rescue Centre located in Hamilton, the following centers serve the southern Ontario area and will be happy to assist you:



**For Mammals Call:** Urban Wildlife Centre **905-818-5708**



**For Birds Call:** Open Sky Raptor Foundation **905-643-1391**



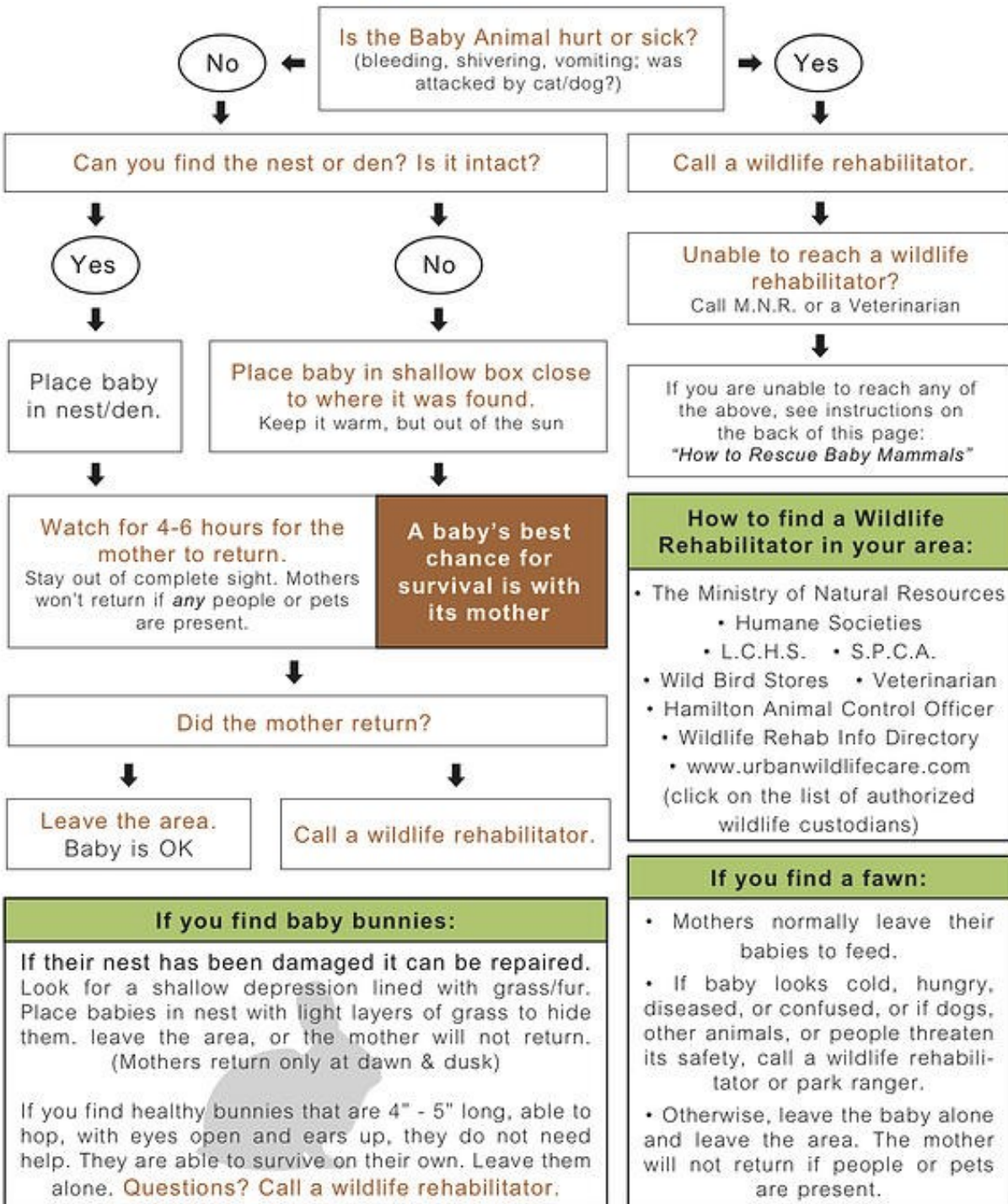
**For Turtles Call:** Turtle Haven **519-745-4334**

**For additional wildlife rehabilitators visit:**

<https://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/find-wildlife-rehabilitator>

If the animal is not sick, injured, or abandoned/lost, contact an animal control company to safely remove the animal and place it safely back in the wild.

## I Found a Baby Mammal — Now What?



## MAMMAL RESCUE: 11 Steps to Safely Tend to Small Mammals

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**Do not handle a sick or injured animal unless you have arranged to immediately take it to a wildlife rehabilitator.** Should you need to handle the animal, Ontario Wildlife Rescue recommends the following steps:

- 1. Prepare a container.** Place a soft cloth on the bottom of a cardboard box or cat/dog carrier with a lid. If it doesn't have air holes, make some. For smaller animals, use a paper sack with air holes punched in.
- 2. Protect yourself.** Wear gloves if possible. Some animals may bite or scratch to protect themselves, even if sick. Wild animals commonly have parasites (fleas, lice, ticks) and carry diseases.
- 3. Cover the animal with a light sheet or towel.**
- 4. Gently pick up the animal and put it in the prepared container.**
- 5. Warm the animal if it is cold out or if the animal is chilled.** Put one end of the container on a heating pad set on low. Or fill a zip-top plastic bag, plastic soft drink container with a screw lid, or a rubber glove with hot water; wrap the warm container with a cloth, and put it next to the animal. Make sure the container doesn't leak, or the animal will get wet and chilled.
- 6. Tape the box shut or roll the top of the paper bag closed.**
- 7. Note exactly where you found the animal.** This will be very important for release.
- 8. Keep the animal in a warm, dark, and quiet place.** Do not give the animal food or water. Leave it alone—do not handle or bother it. Keep children and pets away.
- 9. Contact a wildlife rehabilitator, the Ministry of Natural Resources, or a veterinarian as soon as possible.** Do not keep the animal at your home longer than necessary. Keep the animal in a container—do not let it loose in your house or car.
- 10. Wash your hands after contact with the animal.** Wash anything the animal was in contact with (towel, jacket, blanket, pet carrier) to prevent the spread of diseases and/or parasites to you or your pets.
- 11. Get the animal to a wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible!**

Sourced from: <http://www.urbanwildlifecare.com/#!/found-wildlife/c16xt>