



I found a baby mammal. *Now What?*



Is the baby sick or hurt? Is he bleeding, weak, shivering or crying? Is he alive, but unresponsive or cold to the touch? Are there insects on him? Has he been attacked by a cat or dog? Did he approach you?

Is the baby orphaned? It is extremely rare for a wild animal to abandon her young. Are you certain the mother is dead?

NO

YES

Is the baby behaving normally?

All wild mothers are afraid of people, but the maternal instinct is very strong, and they will not abandon their young even if the baby has been handled. If people or pets are near she will not approach her baby.

Opossums travel with their mothers and leave to forage alone when they are 7-8 inches long (excluding tail).

Fawns and rabbits sleep or hide in the grass during the day. Mothers only return to nurse periodically, leaving older babies for longer periods. Babies know to remain quiet until their mother returns.

Raccoons play and make chirping or trilling noises in their denning area at the age of 5-8 weeks. They leave the den to travel with their mother at the age of 8-10 weeks

YES

NO

Bring the baby to WildCare
Can you transport him immediately?

NO

YES



Is the baby in danger? Are cats, dogs, children or cars creating a hazard?
Does the baby need help? Most mother mammals can carry their babies back to the den or to an alternative den. Bats (and birds) cannot carry their young.

YES

NO

Visit wildcarebayarea.org/ressources for a center near you. (Marin County residents can call The Marin Humane Society 415-883-4621)

Leave the area.
Baby is okay.

To transport an injured or orphaned baby to WildCare

- 1. Prepare a container.** A shoebox with air holes in the lid, lined with a small towel, works for most babies.
- 2. Protect yourself.** Wear gloves if possible. Animals may have parasites or carry diseases. Wash your hands after handling.
- 3. Put the baby in the box.** Cover the baby with a light cloth and gently put him in the shoebox.
- 4. Keep it warm.** If the baby is cold, put one end of the shoebox on top of a heating pad set on LOW.
- 5. If you can't transport immediately:**
 - Call our hotline at 415-456-SAVE
 - Keep the baby in a warm, dark, quiet place.
 - Do not give him food or water.
 - Do not handle him.
 - Keep children and pets away from him.
- 6. Transport the baby to WildCare.** Keep him in the shoebox, keep the car quiet (radio off, etc.).
- 7. Complete WildCare's intake form.** Provide complete information on the circumstances of your rescue. Provide your personal information clearly in the event we need to contact you.

Is it safe for you to help the baby? Never put yourself in physical danger. Bats, foxes, skunks and raccoons can carry rabies and bite. Never handle them with bare hands.

YES

NO

?? unsure ??

Can you find the den? Is it intact? Is the baby warm to the touch?

YES

NO

Call WildCare
415-456-7283 (SAVE)

Get the baby back to the mother. Call WildCare for species and age-specific guidelines on how to reunite/reneat a baby. After the baby has been returned, watch from a distance, keeping pets and children away from the area so as not to frighten the mother. Is the mother visiting the baby? Does the baby seem ok?

NO

YES

