



Green Mountain Animal Defenders
www.gmad.info

Thank you for your interest in helping wildlife!
We hope this information will help direct you to the resources you need to aid injured or abandoned wild animals or to humanely resolve other wildlife concerns

What should you do if you find an injured bird or other wildlife?



3-Day Old Baby Pigeon

Contact a trained wildlife rehabilitator immediately, before attempting to handle the situation yourself. It is against state and, in some cases, federal law to possess or raise wildlife without a permit. Be sure to keep yourself safe when handling any animal.

To prevent an animal from wandering off injured, you may (wearing heavy gloves) place the animal in a box or cover the animal with a secure box with air holes or a weighted-down laundry basket (use this method with “rabies vector” species to avoid touching them). Be sure to keep cats, dogs, and other animals and children away! This will enable you to confine the animal until an experienced wildlife rehabilitator can take over. Here are some frequently asked questions and a list of local wildlife rehabilitators to contact for advice or help.

Please remember that all wildlife rehabilitators in Vermont are volunteers and most also have regular jobs in addition to this volunteer work, so please let them know you appreciate their help! If possible, please also offer to make a donation to help them defray the cost of food, cages, and medical supplies needed for the helpless animals who count on them for life-saving care.

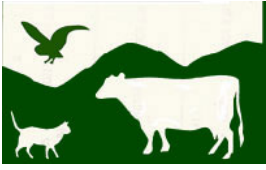
Note: Rehabilitators are shown by town and are listed with codes for the types of wild animals they treat. Some rehabilitators also offer assistance for additional species even though they may not accept them for rehabilitation. You may want to ask any of them for advice if you cannot contact the specialized rehabilitator quickly.

http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/wildlife_rehabilitators.cfm

Please note: Certain wildlife rehabbers have permits to assist “rabies vector” species. Please check the link above to find the closest one to your area or call the RABIES HOTLINE at 1-800-472-2437 (800-4RABIES). We strongly advise against touching animals who may possibly carry rabies, including skunks, raccoons, foxes, coyotes, and bats. Your safety and well-being come first!

Humane Solutions: Into the Wild

Vermont animal advocate and rehabilitator JoAnn Nichols has started a business called Into the Wild to provide humane solutions to human-wildlife conflicts. Many other companies use lethal means to remove wildlife from homes or property. Into the Wild provides a more compassionate choice and also educates



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people about humane ways to resolve wildlife concerns.

Contact JoAnn at Into the Wild:

Phone: 802-651-6863 or email: wildneighbors@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.aanimalcontrol.com/professional-trapper/wildlife/VT-Burlington-Wildlife.htm>



4-Week Old Baby Red Squirrel in Safe Hands of Rehabilitator

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Birds

What if I find a nest with live baby birds and no mother?

Sometimes this isn't a cause for concern. Mother birds often feed their babies and then fly off unnoticed. And since baby birds can't survive a day without being fed, it's safe to assume their mothers are nearby, collecting food for their babies, and should return to the nest within 30 minutes. Mother birds may not return to the nest if humans are in the vicinity, so watch quietly from a window to make sure the babies are being cared for. If no adult birds appear to feed the babies, get advice from a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

What should I do if the nest has fallen or has been destroyed?

If the babies are warm, active, and not injured, you can create a makeshift nest using a small wicker basket lined with dried grass. Place the babies in the center of the new nest and hang the nest **EXACTLY** in the spot where the old nest was. Make sure it is tied very securely so that wind cannot blow it down.

What if I can't get the nest back to the exact location it was in?

You need to contact a wildlife rehabilitator for help immediately. Baby birds will die very quickly if not kept warm and fed every 30 minutes. Never put water or other liquid in a baby bird's mouth, as this can drown the baby.

What if I find a baby bird lying on the ground all alone with no nest in sight?

A baby such as this needs immediate and proper care. Take the baby indoors, place him/her in a small box lined with soft tissues or rags, and call a wildlife rehabilitator immediately.

How do I know if a baby bird is orphaned or not?

If the baby is fully feathered and hopping around on the ground, he/she is probably fine. This is a normal phase for a baby bird (fledgling) and the parent birds will come and feed the baby on the ground until he/she learns to fly in a few days. However, if the baby is not fully covered in feathers, has big bare patches or



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just plain fuzz (down) rather than feathers, or cannot hop around, he/she is likely orphaned and needs help. Contact a wildlife rehabilitator immediately.

What if I find an injured bird?

Line a box with soft tissues or rags and keep the bird in a quiet location. Make sure the box is covered and appropriately sized so that the bird is secure and comfortable. Be sure to poke holes toward the lower portion of the box so the bird can breathe! Contact a wildlife rehabilitator immediately because birds starve to death quickly and the bird likely needs medical attention.

SMALL MAMMALS

What if I find bunnies in a slight depression in the ground?

You've found a nest. Make an "X" out of two small sticks over the nest, and check it the next day. Don't alter the nest in any way, as this can scare the mother away. Mother rabbits do not stay with their babies—they return to the nest briefly only two or three times a day and then leave again. If the babies appear warm, active, and well fed, they are probably fine.

If the sticks over the nest haven't moved the next day, the mother might be dead. Contact a wildlife rehabilitator. Also, if the nest has been disturbed by a dog or cat, contact a rehabilitator for advice.

How do I know when to leave a bunny alone?

If you find a bunny with open eyes and hopping, he/she is probably fine. If you find one in a huddled position, he/she is scared because of being approached, but is probably fine.

If you find a single bunny with closed eyes, if a rabbit has been caught by a cat or dog, or if you sense that the rabbit is injured, it's time to act! Call a wildlife rehabilitator immediately. Before transporting the animal, wear gloves and place the rabbit in a deep box with soft, dry bedding and holes in the cover for ventilation. It's a good idea to place a heating pad (on a low setting) under part of the box to keep the rabbit warm while allowing room to move away from the heat.



Rescued Newborn Rabbit

What if I find an orphaned raccoon, fox, skunk, or woodchuck? Contact a licensed "rabies vector" species rehabber immediately (see info above). Do not touch the animal! To contain the animal without touching him/her, place an empty box with holes poked in it or a laundry basket upside down over the animal, and weight down the box or basket to prevent escape. As with all orphans, you need to act quickly, as they cannot survive long without help. Keep children, pets, and predators away!

What if I find a baby squirrel?

Try to return the baby to his/her mother. First, place the squirrel in a shallow box and set the box on the ground, right against the trunk of the tree that the squirrel fell from. You can place bottles full of warm water



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(capped tightly) next to the squirrel in the box. Make sure the bottle of warm water cannot roll onto the baby and injure him/her. Leave the box next to the tree trunk for an hour, while observing for predators such as neighborhood pets and wildlife. If no mother comes to pick up the baby, she may have been injured or killed and the baby may have fallen when leaving the nest in search of her. If no mother appears, bring the baby inside and call a wildlife rehabilitator immediately.

What if I find a baby opossum?

Keep the baby in a warm, dry place and contact a wildlife rehabilitator immediately.

What if I find a dead adult opossum?

Mother opossums carry babies inside their pouch. Even if the mother has been hit by a car, her babies might be alive. Opossums have as many as 13 babies! If you discover such a situation, you can place the dead mother in a box and bring her to a rehabber so the babies can be gently removed from the pouch. If the babies are older (fully furred), some of them may have wandered into the roadside ditch and you can locate them by their tiny hissing sounds. Collect them gently and place them in a box. Call a wildlife rehabilitator immediately for help. Please note: Opossums have not been found to carry rabies. Still, take caution and wear gloves before handling an opossum.

What if I find an injured baby skunk?

Call a wildlife rehabilitator immediately. You can place an empty box with small air holes or a laundry basket securely over the skunk to contain him/her. Put a weight on top of the box or basket; otherwise the animal could crawl out from underneath. Be extremely careful, as skunks may carry rabies.



Deer

What if I am driving and hit and injure a deer?

Contact the state police (802-244-7345) as well as the game wardens at the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (802-241-3727). end_of_the_skype_highlighting Sadly, they may have to euthanize the animal, but this is more humane than the injured deer crawling away to die slowly and painfully.

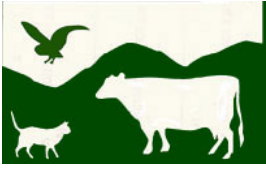
What if I find a baby deer?

Mother deer usually leave fawns hidden among the grass while grazing nearby. If the fawn is lying quietly and does not look injured, he/she is probably fine. Keep dogs and humans away so the doe will not be afraid to come back to care for her fawn. If the fawn is injured or wandering and crying, he/she might be in trouble. In this case, call a wildlife rehabilitator for advice.

ANIMALS INSIDE YOUR HOME

What if there is a wild animal in my home?

If an animal is inside your home, you may borrow one of our excluders for free (a fully refundable deposit may be required). An excluder is a humane "trap" that allows the animal to enter and leave, but not get back into your house. This is a great solution because it causes less stress for both you and the animal!



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We also have humane mouse traps and other animal traps you can borrow. Please send your request to wildlife@gmad.info or call 802-861-3030.



This baby mouse proves that no animal is too big or too small to deserve our compassion

For professional help, the company Into the Wild offers humane solutions:

Phone: 802-651-6863 or email: wildneighbors@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.aanimalcontrol.com/professional-trapper/wildlife/VT-Burlington-Wildlife.htm>

ANIMALS OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

There are many humane and effective ways to dissuade wild animals from taking up residence in close proximity to your home or garage. The best solution is tolerance for the animals coexisting with you. Read on for an example:

What if there is a skunk, raccoon, opossum, or fox living under my porch, shed, house, or in my garage?

- In the evening, put a turned-on radio and a bright light in close proximity. The animal should leave in a day or two (you'll be able to tell by putting an 8 to 10 inch thick band of flour at the entrance and looking for tracks). If not, you should be able to coax the animal to move out by placing cider vinegar-soaked rags near the area. Be sure you close off the opening with sturdy mesh or another sturdy material once you are sure the animal has been gone for two consecutive nights.

- If babies are involved, be sure to wait a few weeks until they are old enough to follow their mother.

For professional help, the company Into the Wild offers humane solutions:

Phone: 802-651-6863 or email: wildneighbors@gmail.com

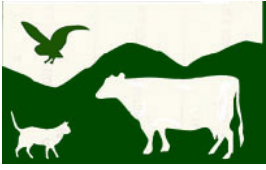
Website: <http://www.aanimalcontrol.com/professional-trapper/wildlife/VT-Burlington-Wildlife.htm>

OTHER RESOURCES:

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) offers info/advice by species: http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/wild_neighbors/

For more examples and advice, see the FAQ on the Wildlife in Crisis website at <http://www.wildlifeincrisis.com/faqs/index.htm>.

This FAQ pertains to Connecticut, so please be sure the information applies to your situation as well before taking action.



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HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Green Mountain Animal Defenders' animal rescue efforts would not be possible without those caring individuals who are willing to transport animals in need or become wildlife rehabilitators! We need people to pick up injured/abandoned animals where they are found and drive them to where they can receive proper care. GMAD will gladly reimburse your transportation expenses (gas, tolls, parking). There is also a dire need for more compassionate people to obtain a Vermont Wildlife Rehabilitator license. If you are interested in helping wildlife on any level, or in making a donation earmarked for this project, please contact us at wildlife@gmad.info or 802-861-3030.

