


Wildlife Rescue: Common Questions

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Thank you to Oakland Twp
Residents for continued support of
parks programming through
Oakland Township Parks millage.
We are grateful that Oakland
Township values outdoor spaces
and appreciates the recreational
experiences we offer.

Why this time of year?

- ▶ Many animals are looking for mates, traveling to do so
- ▶ Other animals found their mate and are now starting to have offspring



ETHICS: Why rehabilitate wildlife?



Death/illness/injury is part of nature.

Humans change nature: invasive species, roads/cars, poison, tangles, outdoor cats, etc.

Wildlife Rehabilitation mitigates human-caused damage to wildlife.



Roles in a wildlife emergency~

Rescuer (Bystandard)-
get help, if safe to do so!

- ▶ Most species, legally required to be out of your possession within 24 hours
- ▶ Contain or help contain animal
- ▶ Do not offer food or water
- ▶ Keep in dark, quiet space until able to transport
- ▶ Contact Wildlife Rehabilitator
- ▶ Transport contained animal to Wildlife Rehabilitator

Wildlife Rehabilitator
(Paramedic)- Triage

- ▶ Initial intake of animal- where it was found and by whom (required paperwork)
- ▶ Physical examination of animal
- ▶ Likely administer IV fluids
- ▶ Treat most pressing injury
- ▶ Sometimes, kindest option is euthanasia-
8 humane euthanasia methods





What is a wildlife rehabilitator?

Wildlife Rehabilitators in Michigan are licensed by the Michigan DNR after fulfilling requirements that include:

- ▶ completion of a Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation course and certificate
- ▶ subpermittee to a mentor
- ▶ subject to unscheduled inspections of their (often at their home) facilities
- ▶ International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council minimum standards for species needs
- ▶ complete continuing education credits every 2 years

The DNR does not pay or employ any wildlife rehabilitators.

Can we schedule an emergency? Be prepared beforehand.

- ▶ Towel/Heavy Gloves
- ▶ Pocket knife/scissors
- ▶ Cardboard Box
- ▶ (small enough to fit in your vehicle and big enough to hold the biggest animal you can help contain)

- ▶ Download Animal Help Now app



Any adult or young animal with the following:

- Obvious injury
(broken bone, large or multiple open wound(s))
- Lethargic (easy to contain)
- Entangled
- Covered in ticks or maggots

Contain entangled animals and take to rehabber for a checkup before release.

Use scissors or pocketknife to remove as much “string” as possible, while containing in box.



Scenario:

Turning out of Bear Creek Nature Park's drive on a sunny day in August and you see a driver veer to the right side of the road for a moment and then speed away. You look at the spot where they veered and find a turtle with a crack in the top of her shell. What should you do?



Animal Help Now



Your 24/7 resource for wildlife emergencies and conflicts



Helper Login
Get Listed

HOME RESOURCES IN THE NEWS BLOG ABOUT CONTACT

DONATE VOLUNTEER

Find assistance for a wildlife emergency or conflict.

Or read our [Resources/FAQs](#).

Location of emergency/conflict

48306 I

Address, city and state, or ZIP code

Wildlife Emergency
Injured, orphaned, distressed wildlife

Wildlife Conflict
"Nuisance" wildlife problem



Pet Help and Rescue App: Available Now!

Sign Up for Updates and News

* Email Address

name@email.com

* First Name

* Last Name

I'm not a robot



reCAPTCHA

Privacy - Terms

[Email Privacy Policy](#) | Emails are serviced by Constant Contact.

Illegal to rehabilitate in Michigan

Permitted wildlife rehabilitators in Michigan are not allowed to possess bats, black bears, cougars, elk, lynx, moose, mute swans, skunks, or wolves, including their offspring. Adult whitetail deer are not allowed to be rehabilitated, or deer in select counties.





Highly regulated rehabilitation in Michigan-
must remain in the same county.

Orphaned?

All species have the best chance of survival with mom, rehabilitation is the last resort.

Orphan? Mammals- Cottontail



All bunnies except D. still need to be with their mother to survive.

A. Infant cottontail, eyes and ears closed, fur smooth. **B.** Juvenile, eyes just open, ears back, fur smooth. **C.** Juvenile, ears up but fur still smooth. **D.** Older juvenile, able to be on its own. Ears up, fur somewhat fluffy.



Orphan? Mammals- Deer



Orphan? Birds

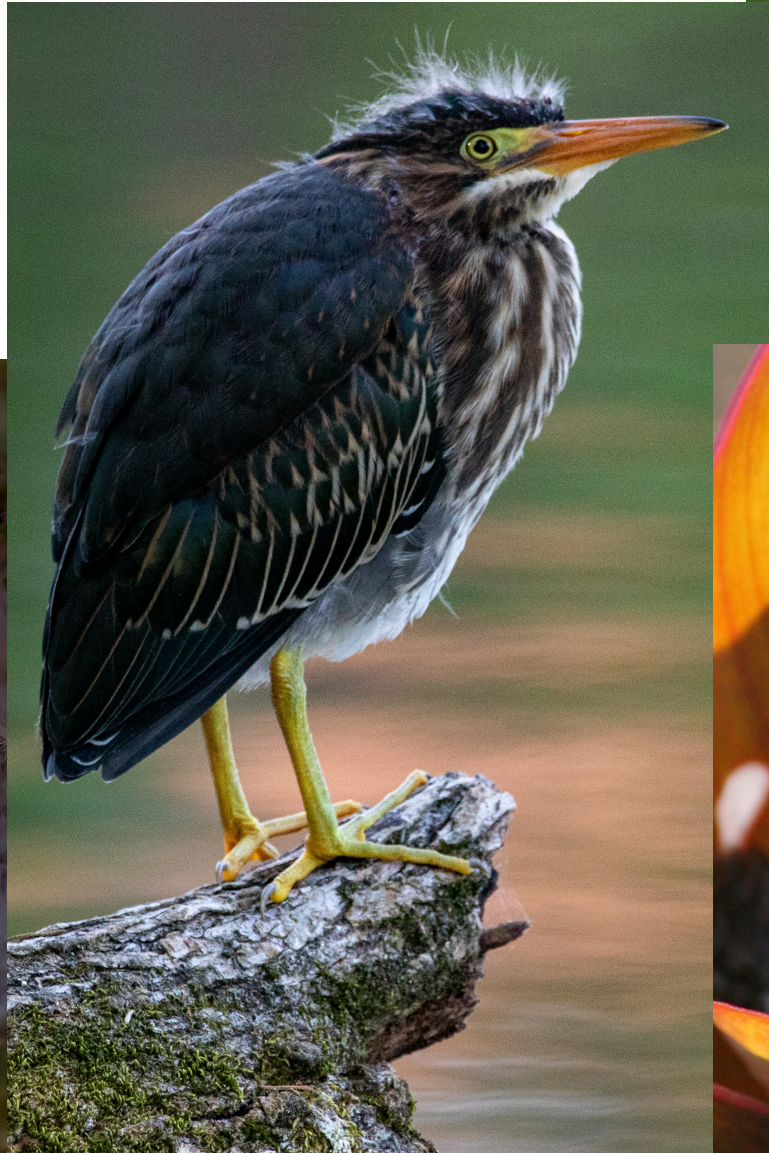
The baby/nest fell down!



- ▶ Most birds cannot smell, they won't abandon offspring if you put it back in the nest (if you can safely do so)
- ▶ If you can't reach the nest, improvise with a basket, chip bowl, spaghetti strainer, etc.
- ▶ Monitor for parental involvement




Hatchling or Fledgling?





Summary:

- ▶ Wildlife Rehabilitators are awesome!
 - ▶ Help them as much as possible by containing the animal and transporting it to a mutually agreed upon location without offering food or water
 - ▶ Note the location where you found the animal- use your phone to pin on maps app?
 - ▶ Don't kidnap baby wildlife (even with good intentions)
 - ▶ AHNOW.ORG or the Animal Help Now app to find the nearest wildlife rehabilitator
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Thank you!
Any questions?



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