

**You can actually increase young wildlife's chances of survival by following one simple rule
when finding them:
Leave them alone!**

It may be difficult to do, but this is the real act of kindness. In nearly all cases, young wildlife do not need to be saved. Resist the temptation to help them. Only when they are found injured or with their dead mother is there reason to do something, and the State's wildlife law is specific about what may be done legally. State law protects nearly all wild birds and mammals. They may not be legally taken from the wild or kept in captivity. Never consider them as possible pets; it is both illegal and unwise. They are wild animals that belong in the wild. However, a distressed or injured wild animal may legally be kept temporarily with the permission of the Division (other than a potentially dangerous species) provided that:

1. The Division of Fish and Wildlife law enforcement office in your area, DEP Emergency Hotline, or the Wildlife Control Unit is notified of the situation within 12 hours, and
2. The Division's Wildlife Control Unit prescribes a course of action that is in the best interest of the animal. Normally the problem will be referred to a wildlife rehabilitator who has the required experience, permits and facilities to properly care for injured and distressed wildlife.
3. See the list of licensed wildlife rehabilitators at www.njfishandwildlife.com/rehablst.htm

Please contact:

Department of Environmental Protection Division of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Control Unit
Clinton Wildlife Management Area
141 Van Syckel's Road
Hampton, NJ 08827
908-735-8793

Endangered and Nongame Species Program
PO Box 400
Trenton, NJ 08625-0400
609-292-9400

The Division of Fish and Wildlife is a professional, environmental organization dedicated to the protection, management and wise use of the state's fish and wildlife resources.