



I found a baby mammal, now what?

Is the animal sick or injured?
(bleeding, shivering, vomiting, or attacked)

No.



Can you find an intact nest or den?



Yes.



Using gloves or a towel, place the baby in the nest/den.



Leave the area. A baby's best chance of survival is with the mother.

No.



Using gloves or a towel, place the baby in a shallow box with the towel close to the where it was found. Keep the box warm with a heated, rice-filled sock, out of direct sun.



Leave the area and wait 4 hours. Do you see evidence the mother returned?



Yes.



No.



Yes.



Contact a wildlife rehab. Find one near you online: tpwd.texas.gov

If you find a baby bunny:

- Bunnies that are 4 - 5 inches long, able to hop, and have open eyes/ears DO NOT need to be rescued. They are small but can survive alone.
- If their nest is damaged, it can be repaired. Use gloves or a towel and place the baby in the nest with light layers of grass over them.
- Mothers will return at dawn/dusk but will not if there are humans or pets nearby.



Needs mom



Independent



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How to rescue baby mammals:

1. Prepare a container. Place a soft cloth on the bottom of a cardboard box or animal carrier with a lid. Make sure it has air holes. For smaller animals, you can 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's 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 warm container with 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, quiet place. Don't give it food or water. Leave it alone; don't handle or bother it. Keep children and pets away.
9. Contact a wildlife rehabilitator, state wildlife agency, or wildlife veterinarian as soon as possible. Don't keep the animal at your home longer than necessary. Keep the animal in a container; don't 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.

It's against the law in most states to keep wild animals if you don't have permits, even if you plan to release them.