

For Injured or Ill Wildlife and/or Apparently Abandoned Baby Wildlife

Basics:

1. First, do no harm. Intervene only as much as is necessary to maintain the animal while getting it to a rehabilitator or a veterinarian.
2. It is illegal to be in possession of wildlife without proper state licensing. Residents may however, within the limits of human and animal safety, transport a small animal to a veterinarian or rehabilitator on an emergency basis.
3. Seek urgent medical attention for any bite or scratch by wildlife. Pets likewise require immediate veterinary attention for a bite or scratch.

Advice for Residents:

1. Do not touch or handle a wild animal. If you must touch an animal, e.g., for its safety, it should be done with thick gloves or other impermeable material.
2. Keep pets and children away from the animal. Limit human interaction; human interaction is extremely stressful to a wild animal.
3. Stay calm and speak in soft, low tones. Walk quietly and slowly and do not tower over the animal; it may perceive a towering human as a threat, causing it more stress and potentially aggressive behavior.
4. An injured or ill animal may stay calmer if a soft towel or blanket covers its head.
5. Do not approach an animal that is behaving abnormally, e.g., a skunk that is out of hiding during the daytime. Skunks, raccoons, coyotes and bats can carry rabies. Rabies can occur in other mammals as well but is much rarer.
6. If a baby animal appears to be abandoned, leave it alone unless you know that the mom has been killed or the animal is injured or if a predator is after it. More often than not, the adult is nearby and will return.
7. If a baby animal has truly been abandoned, contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) or a rehabilitation center for further advice. If it appears to be injured, keep it warm with a towel or blanket or solar blanket while awaiting further direction.
8. A baby bird that has fallen out of a nest can be gently placed back in the nest assuming you can safely reach the nest. The adult will not reject it. Unless directed to do so by CPW or a wildlife rehabilitation or rescue authority, do not attempt to feed or give water to a young bird; incorrect feeding and watering may be harmful.

9. A bird that hits a window may be stunned enough to appear dead for at least an hour. Handling it during this time may cause even more stress. Do not touch it, only watch from a distance, and keep pets away. If the bird is still there after one hour and you see some movement or change in the bird's posture that leads you to think it is still alive, call a rehabilitation resource for advice on how to proceed. In the event of extreme weather, either heat or cold, call a rehabilitator when you first see the bird strike and they can recommend a timelier procedure.

Important phone numbers

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| Emergency Services (ES) | 303-688-6447 |
| Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) | 303-791-1954 Littleton office 303-291-7227 Denver office |
| Douglas County Sheriff | 303-660-7505 |

Additional Information

1. CPW is the primary contact for ES for large and medium sized mammals (coyotes, bears, bobcats, foxes).
2. Contact ES or CPW for injured or ill small mammals that are potential rabies vectors. This includes bats, skunks, raccoons, feral cats and dogs.
3. Residents can directly contact a rescue/rehabilitation center for injured or abandoned small mammals (squirrels, rabbits) that are not rabies vectors. If the animal is in the house or tangled in landscaping or outside cords, ES may be able to assist the resident in removing it.
4. Advise residents to contact bird rescue and rehabilitation agencies for injured or ill birds.

For information on humane eviction of squirrels, skunks and raccoons from a residence, a helpful local resource is the Urban Wildlife Rescue website <http://www.urbanwildliferescue.org/> .

Note about birds:

Most of the birds in the Village are considered songbirds, even the ravens and crows. Raptors are birds of prey and include hawks, eagles, owls and vultures. There is a tiny raptor, the American Kestrel, that can be confused with songbirds due to its size. We also have water birds and shorebirds such as Mallard Ducks and Canada Geese as well as Wild Turkeys. If in doubt about what kind of bird you are dealing with, email or text a photo of the bird to the rescue agency.

Importantly, if you find a baby or injured bird, do not attempt to give it food or water unless advised to do so by an expert. Birds can drown if administer water incorrectly. Keep the bird safe from predators and protected from the elements. See the link below regarding injured and baby birds.

Licensed Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Resources

Large to medium mammals & raptors: Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW)

<https://cpw.state.co.us/>

303-791-1954 Littleton office

303-291-7227 Denver office

303-291-7131 (Justin Olson, our area rep. personal cell)

Small mammals (and songbirds & woodpeckers if necessary):

Greenwood Wildlife

<https://www.greenwoodwildlife.org/>

303-823-8455

Advice, rehabilitation

Open 9 - 4 daily

Birds; all birds including hummingbirds and raptors:

Heather Brown, licensed bird rehabilitator

303-667-7174 cell try this number first

303-840-7194 home

Local rehabilitation (Parker) and advice. Good choice to call first. Returns calls quickly

Birds: all birds except hummingbirds and raptors:

Wild Bird Rescue

<https://wildbirdrehab.com/>

303-927-7348

Advice, rehabilitation

Birds of prey (Raptors):

Birds of Prey Foundation (BPF)

<https://www.birds-of-prey.org/>

303-460-0674

Advice, rehabilitation

Small and large mammals:

Urban Wildlife Rescue

<http://www.urbanwildliferescue.org/>

303-340-4911

Advice, rescue, informative website; not a rehabilitation agency

Baby birds and injured birds:

<https://resources.bestfriends.org/article/how-help-injured-wild-bird>

Informative website

Additional Information

[https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/RulesRegs/SpecialLicenses/WildlifeRehabilitation/PublicRehabListin
g.pdf](https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/RulesRegs/SpecialLicenses/WildlifeRehabilitation/PublicRehabListin
g.pdf)

This is the link to the list of licensed public Colorado wildlife rehabilitators as of 2019. Not all licensed rehabilitators are listed; there are some who do not wish to be on the public list for whatever reason. We did not show all the rehabilitators on our short list above. You may find this link helpful when looking for specific animals such as rabbits.

If a resident has found a rehabilitator who is not on the public list, he or she should ask the rehabilitator if they are licensed in Colorado. Licensing is important to ensure adequate facilities and qualified personnel. The public list does not include all licensed rehabilitators. Many rehabilitators have limited capacity and choose not to be publicly listed.

