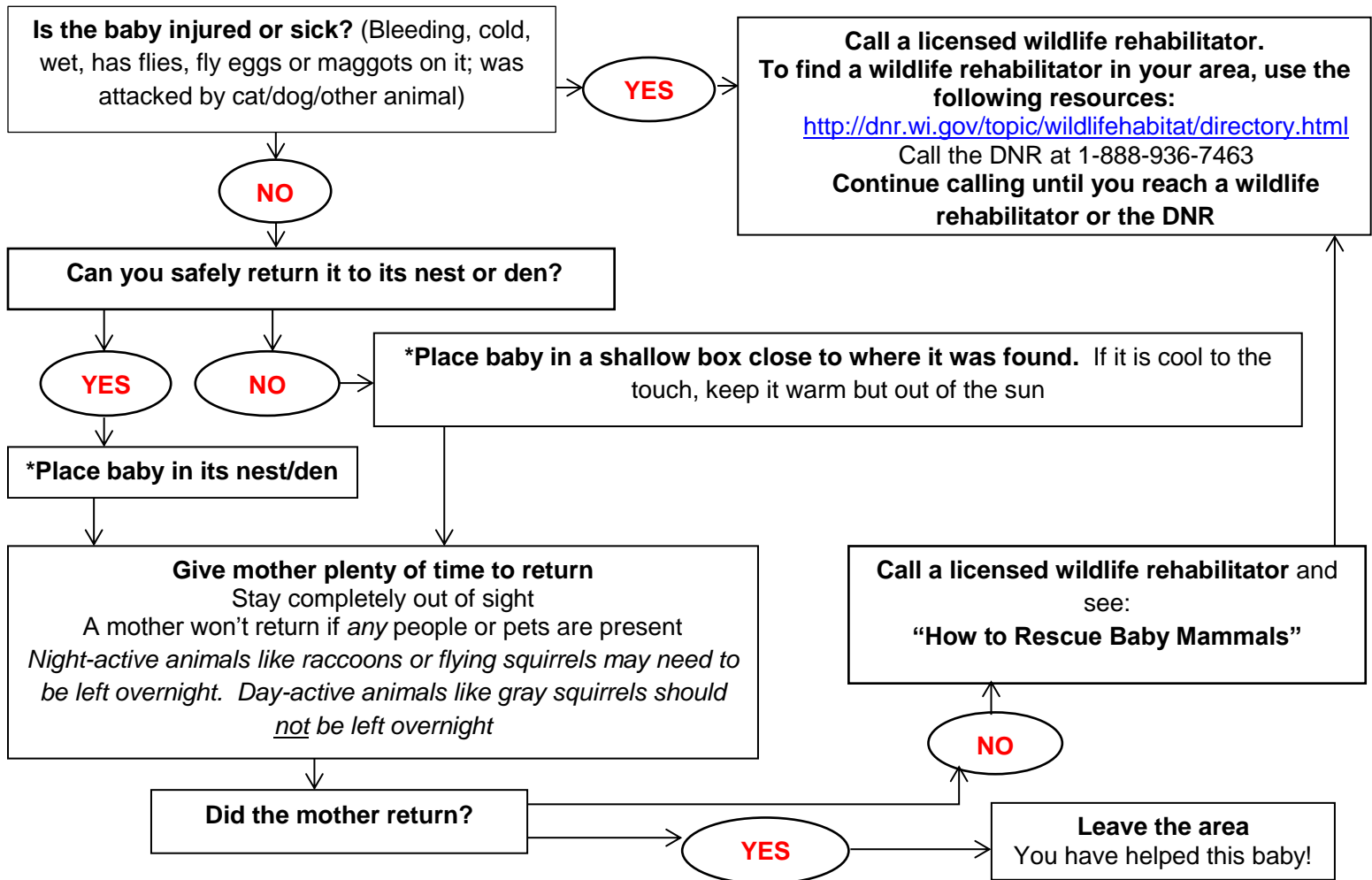


I Found a Baby Mammal: Now What?

Always Remember:

A baby mammal's best chance for survival is with its mother!



If you find a baby rabbit:

- If the nest has been damaged, it can be repaired. Look for a shallow depression lined with dried grass/fur. Place babies in nest with a light layer of dry grass over them to hide them. Leave the area, or the mother won't return. (Mothers usually return only at dawn and dusk to feed their babies). Place several twigs or strings in a "checkerboard" pattern over the nest. If they have been moved overnight, the mother has returned.
- If you find healthy bunnies that are 4-5 inches long, able to hop, with eyes open and ears up, they likely do not need help unless they are in trouble such as they have fallen into a window-well. They are able to survive on their own. Leave them alone. Questions? Call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator or the DNR.

If you find a baby squirrel or chipmunk: Place baby in a shallow box close to where it was found only during daylight hours. Leave the area. Check back before nightfall to see if the mother returned, if not, call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and see "How to Rescue Baby Mammals."

***CAUTION:** Though they may be cute and look harmless, young wild animals don't know that you are trying to help them and they may instinctually try to bite or scratch you to protect themselves when handled! It is very important that you protect yourself by not handling wild animals needlessly, wearing leather gloves, and not handling the animal directly; for example, using a cardboard box to scoop up the animal rather than picking it up by hand. Even if you wear gloves be sure to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water or sanitizing hand-cleaner after handling wildlife.

If you find a baby animal of a type not mentioned specifically here, please call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for special advice.

For more general information, and more specific information about cottontails, squirrels, deer and raccoons go to: dnr.wi.gov Keyword "Orphan?" <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/orphan.html>

How to Rescue Baby Mammals

Only adults should rescue baby mammals. Children should be taught that if they find an animal, they should NOT touch it, but should immediately tell an adult.

For your own safety, before rescuing adult mammals, seek guidance from a licensed wildlife rehabilitator or the DNR.

- 1. Contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.**
- 2. Prepare a container.** Place a soft cloth without loose strings on the bottom of a cardboard box or pet carrier with a lid/door. If the container doesn't have air holes, poke several holes in each side and the top using the sharp end of a pencil or pen.
- 3. Protect yourself from being bitten or scratched!** - Wear leather gloves. **Some animals may bite or scratch to protect themselves**, and wild animals often have parasites (fleas, lice, ticks) and may carry diseases that could make you sick.
- 4. Gently scoop up the baby using a cardboard box or a flat piece of cardboard and place it in a box or other clean, dry container.**
- 5. Place one half of the container on a heating pad set on "low".** This will let the baby crawl to the unheated end of the container if it gets too warm. Or fill a zip-top plastic bag, plastic soft drink container with a screw lid, or a rubber glove with hot water; wrap the warming container with a cloth without loose strings and put it under or next to the baby. Make sure the container doesn't leak, or the baby will get wet and even more chilled. If using a heating pad, check periodically to make sure the container doesn't get too warm and that the heating pad has not turned off automatically.
- 6. Close the top of the box and tape it shut, or make sure the pet carrier is securely closed.**
- 7. Note exactly where you found the baby.** This will be very important if the baby can be returned to its mother.
- 8. Keep the baby in a warm, dark, quiet place.**
Don't give it food or water unless you are directed to do so by a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.
Leave it alone; don't needlessly handle or bother it.
Keep children and pets away! Don't let them touch or handle the baby.
Keep the baby in a container; don't let it loose in your house or car.
- 9. Wash your hands after contact with the baby or its body fluids or feces. Use soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water is not available.** After transferring to a wildlife rehabilitator, wash and disinfect* or discard anything the baby was in contact with — towel, jacket, blanket, pet carrier — to prevent the spread of diseases and/or parasites to you or your pets.
- 10. Get the baby to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.** Read Recommendations for Transporting Wildlife: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/documents/transport.pdf>

It's against the law to keep wild animals if you don't have proper licenses or permits, even if you plan to release them! (Note: by law you have up to 24 hours in which to get the mammal to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and for the sake of the mammal, do so without delay.)

For more information go to: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/orphan.html>

**General guidelines for soiled laundry: wipe or rinse away as much soiling as possible. Then, using hottest water practical and laundry detergent wash soiled item(s) separate from other clothing or items. Rinse with plain water and then soak item(s) in a solution of 1 part household bleach to 10 parts plain water for 20 minutes. Then rinse with plain water and let dry.*

**General guidelines for soiled pet carriers: wipe or rinse away as much soiling as possible. Then either wash with a disinfecting cleaner in hot water, or with dishwashing liquid in water, followed by a fresh water rinse. After rinsing, if you haven't used a disinfecting cleaner, apply or soak the carrier in a solution of 1 part household bleach to 10 parts plain water for 20 minutes. Then rinse and let air dry.*