

# Wildlife Rescue Instructions

(for native Florida wildlife)

**Start Here**

Is it a bat, raccoon, otter, skunk, fox, coyote, or bobcat? If you are unsure, call the Florida Wildlife Hospital. (321) 254-8843

**Yes**

**DO NOT TOUCH!!!** These species can carry rabies (even tiny babies). Once a person shows symptoms, is it nearly always fatal. Call a trapper or other wildlife rescue service.

**No**

Does it have an injury (blood, broken bone), ants on it, is it tangled, or has it been in a cat or dog's mouth?

**Yes**

**No**

## Rescue Tips

- Do NOT give the animal food or water.
- Keep them in a dark, quiet place away from children and other animals.
- Wash your hands after touching the animal.

Is it a baby?

**Yes**

**No**

**Unsure**

Try to re-nest (see back for instructions). Was re-nest successful?

Is it acting sick or abnormal? If you are unsure what is normal, call the wildlife hospital.

Call the Florida Wildlife Hospital. (321) 254-8843 We will likely ask you to send us a photo.

**Yes**

**No**

**Yes**

**No**

**CONGRATS!** You helped keep a family together!

Leave it alone.



Bring it to the Florida Wildlife Hospital  
or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in your area.

(321) 254-8843

4560 N. US Hwy 1, Palm Shores, FL 32935  
[www.floridawildlifehospital.org](http://www.floridawildlifehospital.org)

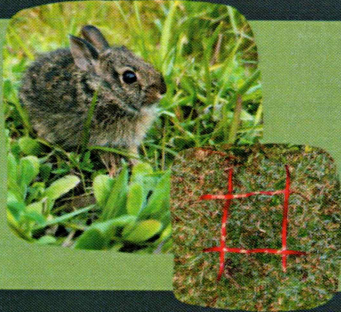


# Rescue Me or Leave Me Be?

**Don't kidnap wildlife! Re-nest is best.**

**Try to find parents or re-nest baby before determining it is orphaned.**

Check out our website [www.floridawildlifehospital.org](http://www.floridawildlifehospital.org) for more instructions.



Rabbits are independent from the time they are the size of a baseball. Mom only visits the nest 2x/day so they may not be orphaned just because you don't see an adult. To check a rabbit nest, put string or yarn around the nest and check the next morning to see if the string was disturbed. If it wasn't moved, bring the animal(s) to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

Squirrels have multiple nests in an area. Try to reunite babies with mom by playing baby squirrel cries. You can make a temporary nest out of a plastic container (add drainage holes) or small basket lined with grasses and attach it to a tree in the shade. If after 4 hours the babies are still there, bring them to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.



Opossums smaller than a dollar bill are usually orphaned if found alone. Bring the animal to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

If you find a deceased adult, check to see if it is a mother with babies (called joeys) in her pouch.

Reptiles are on their own from the day they hatch. Please do not move them away from their home. If they are in the road, help them across in the direction that they were heading.



**Nestling**



**Fledgling**



Nestling birds (pink skin/not standing) need to be in a nest. You can make a nest (see squirrel) and play baby bird calls (call us to help ID the species) to help mom locate her babies. Keep your distance so you don't spook them. Fledgling birds have most of their feathers but are unable to fly and it is normal for them to be on the ground. For nestlings/fledglings, watch to see if parents are caring for babies. If you do not see parents for two hours, bring to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

**Do not give  
food or water!**

