

## I Found a Wildlife Baby! What Should I Do?

### BIRDS:

- **Little to no feathers?** - Create a makeshift nest using a berry basket or small box, line with tissue and place securely in a nearby tree with baby inside. Since birds can't smell, the parents won't reject the baby. Watch from afar to see if the parents return; if parents don't return within an hour, keep the baby warm and bring it to Project Wildlife.
- **Mostly feathered?** - This bird is a young fledgling who is learning to fly and it's normal for it to be on the ground. If left alone, the parents will continue to feed the bird and it will graduate to flying within days. You may also see the parents "attacking" the baby, but don't worry, this is normal and it's how the parents teach the baby to hide from predators.
- **Injured or in danger?** - If visibly injured or in danger from a predator or neighborhood cat or dog, bring the baby to Project Wildlife. If the bird is injured, or has no feathers, it is very important to keep it warm.

### MAMMALS:

- **Watch and wait** - The absence of a parent does not necessarily mean a wildlife baby's been abandoned. To deter predators, some mammals (like deer and rabbits) only visit their young every 12 hours. If you've found a nest, place an "X" of sticks over the entrance and check back later to see if the sticks were disturbed (meaning the parents returned to feed the babies).
- **Warmth and isolation** - If the baby is confirmed abandoned or orphaned, place inside a box in a quiet, dark place away from pets and children until you can bring to Project Wildlife for treatment. Keep the baby warm by placing the box on a heating pad set on low. Place half the container on the heat source and the other half off to avoid overheating the baby.
- **Injured or in danger?** - If the baby mammal is visibly injured or in danger from a predator or neighborhood cat or dog, keep warm and bring to Project Wildlife for treatment.

*Note:* For safety, always wear gloves when rescuing a wild mammal. Also, never feed a wildlife baby, as this can often do more harm than good.

### Project Wildlife's Triage Centers:

#### North County

Tues-Sat 10 am – 4 pm April to Sept.  
2481 Palomar Airport Road  
Carlsbad, CA 92011

#### Central San Diego

Open 7 days, drop-offs 24/7  
887 ½ Sherman Street  
San Diego, CA 92110

**For more information, or to donate,  
visit [www.projectwildlife.org](http://www.projectwildlife.org)**