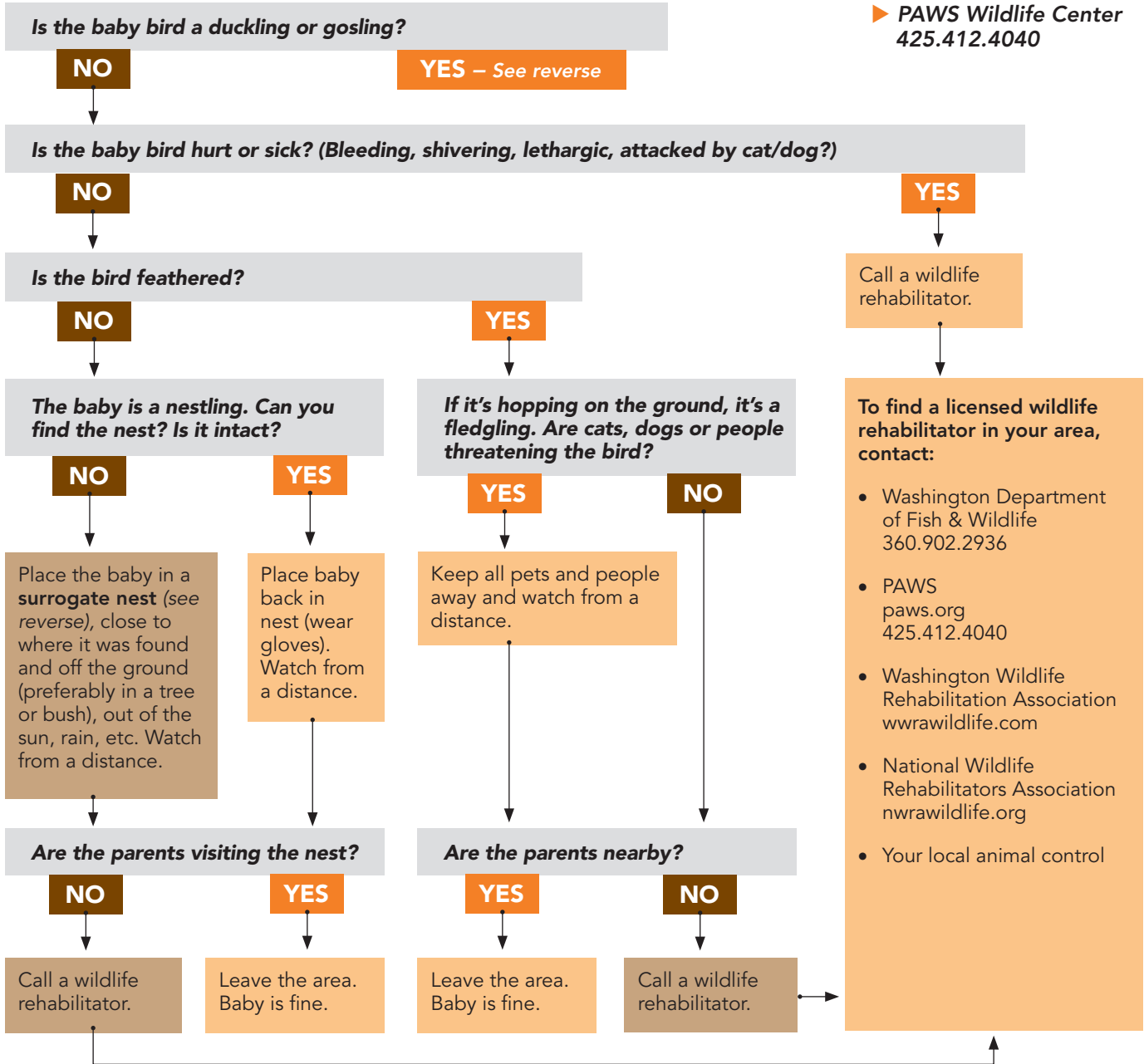


# I found a baby bird! What should I do?

► PAWS Wildlife Center  
425.412.4040



- See reverse side for:
- How to safely contain a wild animal
  - How to make a surrogate nest

**NOTE:** It is illegal in the state of Washington to possess a wild animal without a permit unless you are transporting that animal to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

### **Is the baby bird a duckling or gosling?**

**YES – See below**

#### **Baby Duck (duckling) or Goose (gosling)**

If you know the mother is dead, or if the baby is injured, call a wildlife rehabilitator.

If the baby is separated from the mother and you know where she is, place the baby close to the flock so she can hear the baby. Watch from a distance. If the baby joins the flock and the mother does not reject him, leave the area, the baby is fine.

If the baby is rejected, or if the mother cannot be found, call a wildlife rehabilitator.

#### **How to safely contain a wild animal**

1. Find a suitable container (cardboard box, pet carrier). Poke air holes in it, if needed. Line it with a clean, soft cloth.
2. Gently pick up the animal (wear gloves) and place in the container.
3. Place the container on a heating pad on the lowest setting. If a heating pad is not available, use a rice heat pack (cloth filled with rice and then covered with a towel - <https://www.healthline.com/health/pain-relief/how-to-make-a-home-made-heating-pad>). Place it inside the container, next to the animal for warmth.
4. Secure the container so the animal cannot crawl or jump out.
5. Keep the animal in a warm, dark, quiet place. Do not give her food or water. Leave her alone.
6. Take the animal to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.

#### **How to make a surrogate nest**

1. Find a container such as a small box.
2. Fill the box with leaves, paper towels or a clean, soft cloth. Add a rice heat pack warmed up and cover with a towel.
3. Place the nest in the tree or bush closest to where the animal was found, out of the sun and rain, as high up as you can safely manage.
4. Place the animal(s) in the nest (wear gloves) and leave the area.