I found a baby bird! What should I do?

Is the baby bird a duckling or gosling?

NO

Is the baby bird hurt or sick? (Bleeding, shivering, lethargic, attacked by cat/dog?)

NO

Is the bird feathered?

NO

The baby is a nestling. Can you find the nest? Is it intact?

NO

Place the baby in a surrogate nest (see reverse), close to where it was found and off the ground (preferably in a tree or bush), out of the sun, rain, etc. Watch from a distance.

Are the parents visiting the nest?

NO

Call a wildlife rehabilitator.

YES

Leave the area. Baby is fine.

Are the parents nearby?

NO

Call a wildlife rehabilitator.

YES

Leave the area. Baby is fine.

If it’s hopping on the ground, it’s a fledgling. Are cats, dogs or people threatening the bird?

YES

Call a wildlife rehabilitator.

NO

Keep all pets and people away and watch from a distance.

To find a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in your area, contact:

- Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife 360.902.2936
- PAWS paws.org 425.412.4040
- Washington Wildlife Rehabilitation Association wwrwildlife.org
- National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association nwwildlife.org
- Your local animal control

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.

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**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 hot water bottle or a plastic soda bottle filled with hot water covered with a towel. 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.
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.