

Dear Veterinarian and staff:

Spring is just around the corner and with it, the deluge of orphaned wildlife calls. We can assist you by providing care for orphaned and injured wildlife. We are licensed wildlife rehabilitators with permits from the State of California. Members of the public who call or show up at your office with wildlife should be referred to us so we can get wildlife into care as soon as possible.

If you get calls about found **wildlife babies** please refer the callers directly to one of the rehabilitators below. We are volunteers and may not be available to respond immediately so it is best to advise that someone will **try to** get back to them within the hour. We will do our best to determine if the babies really need to be rescued and if so, to find the appropriate rehabilitator to take the babies into care. We depend completely on donations from the public to rehabilitate wildlife and return it to its natural place in the environment.

If you have admitted wildlife to your clinic, the following protocol is recommended while waiting for the rehabilitator to arrive:

IMPORTANT: Contact with humans and domestic animals is **extremely stressful** for wildlife. Please minimize handling and environmental stress and keep wildlife in a **DARK, QUIET** room away from people and other animals.

- Examine quickly for life threatening injuries, bleeding, etc. Administer emergency care/euthanasia if needed.
- Put the animal in a small, sturdy, towel-covered container (a small carrier works for most species) lined with soft, ravel-free cloths. Place the ½ of the container on a heating pad set on **low**. If you have an incubator-type intensive care unit available, set the temperature at 90 degrees F and cover the unit to provide a dark environment. Keeping the animal **WARM** is critical to its survival.
- Rehabilitators use species specific formulas, so it is best to avoid feeding the animal *any* type of formula or food. Animals that are extremely dehydrated may be given replacement electrolyte fluids SQ .

In the State of California it is **ILLEGAL** for anyone to keep wildlife without a permit and this includes veterinarians and their staffs. The CA Dept. of Fish and Game requires us to collect basic information about where the wildlife is found and the person who finds it. A simple form is attached for this purpose and you are encouraged to reproduce it for your own use. This record should be given to the rehabilitator.

We have a limited network of transporters who are trained in capture and transport of animals. While we primarily deal with mammals, if needed, we can assist you in finding appropriate facilities for most needy wildlife.

Wildlife rehabilitators are also experienced in handling calls from the public to help resolve human/wildlife conflicts. Using our knowledge of local wildlife's habits and traits we can usually find a method of dealing with wildlife issues without trapping, relocation, or otherwise harming wildlife.

Thank you very much for helping us care for our native wildlife