

How to tell if an animal needs your help or should be left alone...

Here are some general signs to look for:

- A wild animal presented to you by a cat or dog
- Bleeding
- An apparent or obvious broken limb
- A featherless or nearly featherless bird (nestling) on the ground
- Shivering
- Evidence of a dead parent nearby

Is the animal really an orphan?

It's a myth that birds abandon their young if a person touches them. Unlike other animals, birds are *not* sensitive to the human scent.

If baby birds have fallen from their nest, you can put them back if safe to do so.

If the original nest was destroyed or is too high to reach, hang a small basket close to where the original nest was. Woven stick baskets work well for this purpose—they resemble natural nests and allow rain to pass through so the birds won't drown. If you don't already have one around the house, baskets can be inexpensively purchased at garden or craft supply stores. Make sure the basket isn't too deep, since adult birds won't jump into anything they can't see out of.

Birds that are fully feathered on their bodies but with short tail feathers may be fledglings (adolescent birds). You may see them hopping about on the ground, but unable to fly. **This is normal:** birds learn to fly from the ground up!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR INJURED OR ORPHANED WILDLIFE

1. Determine if the animal is injured or orphaned...

Many times, an animal appears to be injured or orphaned when it is not. If you have any questions, call the Animal Care and Control *before* you intervene!

- Anytime the mother is killed, the young are orphaned and need care. It is rare for a male species to feed the young.
- **Cat and dog attacks** always need treatment.

2. Don't take risks...

Any injured or orphaned wildlife can and may bite, scratch, and claw to avoid rescue! Wild animals see us as a natural threat, no matter how good your intentions. In most cases Animal Care & Control will dispatch an officer to respond to the location and tend to the wildlife.

3. Take note of the surrounding area...

The animal will likely move before you (or an Animal Control Officer) return to where the animal was originally found, so please **note landmarks** (such as a house address, the edge of a road, a field, the foot of a tree or building to help relocate the animal.

4. Call Adelanto Animal Care & Control at (760) 246-2301, and staff will assist you with your animal questions and needs...

Animal Care & Control will attempt to return the animal to its mother whenever possible because she provides the best nutrition and care for her babies, but sometimes the animal needs to be transported to an area veterinarian or the Animal Care Center for care and treatment. Regardless, the sooner proper nutrition, stabilization and safe housing are provided for the animal, the better its chances are for release back to the wild.

5. DO NOT offer food or water unless instructed to do so!