



Found an injured or orphaned animal?

The Wildlife Discovery Center's primary efforts revolve around wildlife conservation through its exhibits, outreach programs, educational initiatives and camps. We do receive calls regularly about animals that have been found injured, orphaned or in need. Although the WDC is not a licensed wildlife rehabilitation facility, we do partner with who we consider is the finest wildlife rehab facility in NE Illinois; Flint Creek Wildlife Rehab in Barrington, IL. The WDC is able to rehab injured, native turtles, snakes and amphibians but anything bird or mammal related goes to Flint Creek. If you have an injured animal, or, know of one that needs help, you can reach us at 847-902-9941 or email at carmichr@cityoflakeforest.com. To expedite the response of bird or mammal in need, we recommend going straight to the Flint Creek Wildlife Rehab site at: <https://flintcreekwildlife.org/found-an-animal/>. There, you'll be asked to answer a number of questions to assist the Flint Creek staff to determine the best course of action. BEFORE CONTACTING Flint Creek, some helpful information:

Deer: Mother deer will oftentimes leave their fawns for long periods of time. Just seeing a fawn by itself does not mean the animal is orphaned. Watch over a period of a day or two and then if there are no signs of a mother, contact Flint Creek.

Bunnies: Baby bunnies, like deer, spend a lot of time by themselves relying on camouflage to hide from predators. A baby bunny by itself is perfectly normal and unless you see a deceased parent, presume that they are around. If you still feel like the bunnies are orphaned, then contact Flint Creek.

Coyotes: We receive many calls from people who are concerned about a coyote they see. In nearly all cases, coyotes leave people and pets alone as long as a few simple rules are adhered to. Coyotes exhibit a behavior called "escorting" where they will follow you in a parallel manner basically escorting you off of their territory. The last thing they want to do is show aggressive behavior. The WDC has two beautiful coyotes on exhibit. In both cases, these coyotes were found orphaned due to the parents being hunted. Please go to this link to learn more about coyotes and how we can live peacefully with them: <https://www.cityoflakeforest.com/city-services/police/coyotes/>

For injured reptiles and amphibians:

- If able to, place an injured turtle inside a tote box or cardboard box (ventilated) and place on a towel or layers of paper towel and leave in a dark, warm area (70-78 deg F ideal). For snapping turtles, personal safety is first and foremost. The best way to pick up a common snapping turtle is to grab the rear of the shell and lift up and into the box. If the turtle is spotted on a road, your safety and the safety of the public is first and foremost. Always find a safe place to park your car so it doesn't interfere with traffic. Only when it's safe to get the turtle, do so. If in doubt, leave the turtle and contact the police department or the WDC.
- All of our snakes in NE Illinois are non-venomous as the Eastern Massasauga, a small species of rattlesnake, is all but extirpated in our area (sadly). If an injured snake is found, you can do one of several things depending on your comfort level. The easiest way is to put a gardening glove on and pick up the snake at mid body and place in a secure container or a pillowcase (snakes are escape artists so make sure container has no openings other than small ventilation holes and just a few are needed. You can also use a broom to sweep the snake into a container.
- For amphibians like frogs, toads, and salamanders, you can put the animal in a plastic container with some dampened towels or paper towels.