

How to Find a Wildlife Rehabilitator

By Sharon St. Joan

The best way to help a baby bird that's fallen out of his nest, a squirrel that's been hit by a car, a crow that seems unable to fly, or any other form of wildlife, is to call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

In some cases, an "orphaned" young bird or animal may not be orphaned at all, and a rehabilitator can tell you whether or not the animal actually needs to be rescued.

How do I find a wildlife rehabilitator?

There are several ways to find a wildlife rehabilitator near you:

- Call the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, (320) 259-4086, or the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, (510) 383-9090.
- The website for Wildlife International (www.wildlifeinternational.org) provides many helpful wildlife resources, including a directory of wildlife rehabilitators by location. Click on the red "Emergency" to find a wildlife rehabilitator in your area.
- Contact your state wildlife department, which might be called the Game and Fish Department, the Department of Natural Resources, or the Department of Wildlife Resources.
- You can also contact Best Friends Animal Society (435-644-2001) for help.



When should I call a wildlife rehabilitator?

If you have found an injured or orphaned bird or animal, it's very important to call immediately. Half an hour or an hour can easily make the difference between life and death for the bird or animal.

Sharon St. Joan established Feathered Friends at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary and has cared for birds and wildlife for over 15 years. She now devotes her time to writing about birds and wildlife-related issues.

See also: [More About Wildlife Rehabilitators](#)