



St. Francis Wildlife Association

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How to Help Wild Babies

You find a . . .	What you should do —
Fawn (baby deer) curled up in the grass.	Let it be. Mother is probably nearby and watching you. If the mother is dead or the fawn is injured, call St. Francis Wildlife.
Bunny that is 4 inches long with open eyes and erect ears.	She is independent and able to take care of herself. Mother rabbits (and deer) return to nurse smaller babies only twice during the day. If the mother is dead, do not try to raise it yourself.
Bird or other animal caught by a cat.	Any animal touched by a cat will need antibiotics, even if it does not appear to be injured. <u>Keep your cats inside!</u> It is safer for the cats and for wildlife. Do not feed or encourage feral cats.
Featherless or downy baby bird on the ground.	Put it back in its nest. It is a myth that if you touch a baby bird the parents will reject it. Most birds cannot smell. If you can't find or reach the nest, get a small, plastic berry basket, add pine straw and attach to the shady side of the closest tree. Place the baby in the basket and observe from a distance for 2 or 3 hours. If she does not return, take it to St. Francis Wildlife.
Fledgling (fully-feathered young bird with short tail) on the ground.	Don't return it to the nest. The parents will protect and feed it on the ground until it can fly. If it is in danger from pets or traffic, call St. Francis Wildlife for advice.
Dead opossum in the road (spring or summer).	Check to see if it has a pouch (only females have pouches). Remove the babies, keep them warm and take them to St. Francis Wildlife. Move dead animal way off road so it doesn't attract predators who may also be hit by cars.
Baby raptor (hawk, owl) on the ground.	Call St. Francis Wildlife. We are experienced at re-nesting these big babies.
Baby squirrel on the ground.	Pick it up and examine it. If it is cold, but appears otherwise healthy, warm it up. Don't try to feed the baby or give it milk. Place it in a small box at the base of the tree. Go inside (take pets inside) and watch for the mother. If she does not return within 2 or 3 hours, take it to St. Francis Wildlife.
Raccoon, fox, bat or any mammal (even a baby) that is a possible rabies vector .	NEVER HANDLE IT. If one scratches or nips you, it will need to be killed to be tested for rabies. Call St. Francis Wildlife. Squirrels, rabbits and opossums in Florida are extremely uncommon rabies vectors; it's OK to handle them. However, adults will still bite so use heavy leather gloves.