

# What To Do Now

## Next best steps

Before touching, moving, feeding, or containing wildlife, call the Wildlife Clinic. Do not assume an animal needs rescue simply because it is alone, young, or easy to approach. These steps are temporary safety measures until a licensed rehabilitator can guide you.

**CALL 401-294-6363**



## While You Wait: The Basics

### 1 Secure only if safe

Keep children and pets away. Contain the animal if we've advised you to do so or if intervention is warranted, and the animal is safe to contain. Use gloves or a towel and place it in a cardboard box or carrier lined with a soft towel or blanket. Secure the lid so the animal cannot escape.

### 2 Keep warm, dark, and quiet

Place the box in a quiet indoor area away from pets, people, noise, direct sun, and vents. Do not keep checking on the animal - stress can make injuries worse.

### 3 Provide warmth for babies

Babies and cold animals need external warmth. Use a heating pad on LOW under half the box, or a warm rice sock/water bottle wrapped in cloth. It should feel warm, not hot, and the animal must be able to move away.

### 4 No food or water

Do not offer food, water, milk, formula, bread, seeds, or home remedies unless instructed. Incorrect feeding can cause choking, aspiration, diarrhea, hypothermia, or death.

### Rabies Vector Species - Important Safety Notice

**DO NOT handle any rabies vector species with bare hands.** In RI "Rabies Vector Species" includes bats, raccoons, skunks, foxes, coyotes, woodchucks, weasels, fisher, bobcats, mink, otter, seals and bears.

Failure to handle RVS animals safely and appropriately can result in an "exposure" incident which will require the animal be euthanized for rabies testing in accordance with RI state law.

### Getting the Animal to Us

We are a non-profit wildlife hospital and do not have a dispatch service to pick-up animals. We do have a volunteer group that will assist with contained animal pick-ups, if time and resources allow but we cannot guarantee any pick-up. In most cases, animals will need transportation to the Wildlife Clinic by the finder, local animal control, or RI DEM. We can help you determine the safest next steps. Your help transporting wildlife to us and your patience with the process is greatly appreciated.

## Please be Ready to Tell Us

- Exact location found
- Species, age/size, and photos if safe
- Visible injuries or abnormal behavior
- Whether a cat, dog, or vehicle was involved
- Any bite, scratch, or bare-handed contact
- How long the animal has been contained
- Current condition: warm/cold, alert/lethargic
- Whether you can transport to the Wildlife Clinic

### Call before handling wildlife as not all situations require intervention

A quick call can prevent unnecessary intervention, reduce stress, and improve the animal's chance at survival.

**401-294-6363**