I FOUND A BABY ANIMAL OR BIRD...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- Nearly all mammals and birds are protected by State and/or Federal laws. It is against the law to have in your possession a mammal, bird, or its nest without special permits.

- Only adults should rescue an orphaned, sick, or injured animal or bird. Call Friends of Texas Wildlife BEFORE trying to rescue any animal or bird to be sure it truly needs assistance. Adult mammals have sharp teeth, and most animals and many birds have sharp claws that they will use to protect themselves, even if injured.

- Prepare a container. Place a soft cloth or paper towels in the bottom of a cardboard box with a lid, or use a kennel carrier. If it doesn’t have air holes, make some.

- Protect yourself. Wear thick gloves if possible but remember, a scared animal can easily bite through a leather glove.

- Cover the animal/bird with some ravel-free fabric (t-shirt; polar fleece, etc.). Birds’ or animals’ nails can become entangled in the loops of a towel.

- Gently pick up the animal/bird if it is small and place in the prepared box or carrier. Larger animals can be “scooted” into the container or carrier with a broom. Do not put wild birds into a wire cage. Their wings can get stuck in the bars.

- Warm the animal/bird if it is cold or if it’s a baby. Put one end of the container or carrier on a heating pad set on LOW, or heat a damp washcloth in an unsealed Ziplock bag in the microwave for 30 seconds (after heating, seal bag and place it under the container). A heated rice sock can also be used. Never place the animal directly on the heat source.

- Keep the animal/bird in a warm, dark, quiet place. Leave it alone. Don’t handle the animal. Keep children and pets away.

- Please don’t give the animal/bird ANY food or water. Water can easily be aspirated into the lungs and hurt or kill the animal. Feeding an animal incorrectly, or the wrong thing can also kill it. Cold, dehydrated animals cannot digest food.

- Call Friends of Texas Wildlife at 281-259-0039 for further instructions.

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