

Wildlife Agencies:

Wildlife agencies may assist with information, but they do not provide care, rescue, or transport for sick and injured wild animals.

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

404-679-7070

FLORIDA FISH & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

561-625-5122

CONTROL AGENCIES:

Control agencies deal primarily with animals, wild or domestic, that pose a danger to people or property. They do not provide care or treatment for injured wildlife. Martin County Animal Control frequently assists the Wildlife Center with transportation of wildlife.

MARTIN COUNTY ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

772-287-1656

PALM BEACH COUNTY ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

561-233-1200

ST. LUCIE COUNTY ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

772-871-5042

DOMESTIC (NON-WILD) ANIMAL GROUPS:

Humane Societies deal with domestic animals, pets, and sometimes livestock. They are not permitted to accept or care for wildlife.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE TREASURE COAST

772-287-5753

ST. LUCIE COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

772-461-0687

PALM BEACH COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

561-686-3663

SAFE HARBOR ANIMAL RESCUE

561-747-1598

Legal Considerations:

“Unless and except as permitted by regulations... it shall be **unlawful** at any time, by any means or in any manner, **to** pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture, or kill, **possess**,... transport or cause to be transported, carry or cause to be carried... **any migratory bird**, any part, nest, or eggs of any such bird...”

Migratory Bird Treaty Act 16 U.S.C.

Potentially dangerous **wildlife may be possessed** for personal use (Class II) only **under a special license** as specified in Chapter 372.922, F.S. No cost permits are available to possess certain wildlife species for personal use (Class III, i.e., raccoons, opossums, skunks, and squirrel monkeys). Some **common and innocuous species of wildlife have been exempted from permit requirements** for personal use (i.e., parrots, parakeets, squirrels, non-venomous snakes, turtles, and rabbits), but possessors must still comply with caging and humane requirements. Venomous reptiles may only be possessed under license as per Chapter 372.86-91, F.S.

Chapter 372 Florida Statutes

“Migratory Birds” may be considered to be any bird species native to North America. Additional regulations apply to the possession of wild birds and other animals, including the Federal Lacey Act and its amendments, the Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as well as other Florida and local regulations. The general intent of all these regulations is to prevent interference, *including well-intentioned interference*, with wild species. Note that **no exemption from these laws is provided to:**

- ◆ Well meaning citizens
- ◆ Animal Control agencies
- ◆ Police Departments
- ◆ Humane Societies or Organizations

Please do not ask TCWC, these agencies, or these groups to violate the law!

You Found An Injured Animal...

Information Provided by



A non-profit corporation helping south Florida's wildlife and natural environments.

8438 SW 48 AVENUE
PALM CITY, FL 34990
(772) 286-6200
WWW.TCWH.ORG

*Founded in 1974
Serving the Wildlife and People
of The Treasure Coast*

Founded in 1974 by
Jean Henry and Ruth Stanwood
A private, non-profit organization dedicated
to the protection and conservation of all wild
animals, natural environments, and the
conditions necessary to their preservation.

Sick or Injured Wild Animals

The first consideration is *your own safety*. Sick or injured animals do not understand your good intentions, and will typically defend themselves vigorously. This is true even of animals in grave condition; teeth, beaks, and talons remain functional to the end.

Many animals can be picked up using a towel and a cardboard box. Drop the towel over the animal. Once unable to see, the animal should become calmer and easier to handle. Then pick up towel and animal together and place into a box or other container. Do NOT attempt to remove the towel; the animal will become frightened once again, and both you and the animal will be exposed to harm.

Keep the container in a dark, quiet place. **Do NOT attempt to feed it**, although water may be offered but never forced. Incorrect diets are dangerous to wild animals. Also, medical examination will be facilitated if the animal has an empty stomach.

Bring the patient back to Treasure Coast Wildlife Center during receiving hours. Note that most patients will not be harmed by an overnight wait.

Baby Wild Animals

Motto: Put it back! Leave it alone!

The season for baby birds and other wild animals is virtually year-round in our area. The Hospital receives numerous inquiries each day from people who have found baby birds or other animals that seem to need help. In order to decide just what sort of help is appropriate, it is important to remember that **ests are only for eggs and infants**.

Very young babies are sometimes dislodged from their nests by storms or other interferences. Hairless (or featherless) babies with eyes closed should be replaced into their nest. If you cannot locate the nest, put birds or squirrels in a wicker basket with some dry



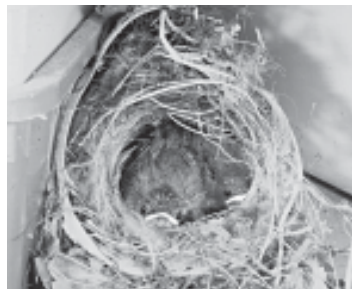
leaves and hang it in a nearby bush or tree. Other animals can be placed in a basket or shallow box on the ground in a shaded spot. In almost all cases this will keep the youngster safe until the parents return or it is mature enough to get around on its own a little better. Once this is done, be sure to leave the area; Mom will not approach with you nearby.

Do not worry-- the old tale about a mother animal not accepting her baby back after it has been touched by a human is not true; most birds have no sense of smell, and other animals are almost always happy to see that their babies are safe.



Once a young animal can move around, it begins to explore its surroundings. This clumsy time for young birds is called the “brancher” stage; these and other young animals frequently fall from their lofty perches, sometimes ending up in our yards or porches. Returning such a juvenile to a nest is like putting a teenager into a crib-- it will stay there only as long as it is forced to do so. The parents will continue to care for their young even on the ground, so it is usually best to simply leave such youngsters alone.

While this is indeed a dangerous time for babies, it is also a critically important step in their development. Baby birds do not need to “learn” to fly; instead, they must develop the necessary physical maturity and strength. The exercise they get hopping and fluttering from place to place serves this end. Babies do though need to learn what food looks, smells, and tastes like in the wild. After all, once Mom stops feeding them, such knowledge is critical. Babies also learn to avoid predators and take shelter from the elements by noting the reactions of their parents. These lessons are clearly very important to the future survival of the youngsters.



Trying to raise a baby bird or other animal yourself may seem like a great idea at first, but it is much more complicated than you may think. Each species requires a different diet and feeding regimen to ensure proper development. In the wild, animals are adapted to these different diets and schedules to allow them to coexist without competition from

other types of animals. These conditions must be duplicated, or the babies will not thrive. In addition, babies can become imprinted onto humans all too easily. This only creates a confused animal that will be unable to relate to others of its own kind when released into the wild.

If you find a baby animal and are truly unable to reunite it with its parents, please take the time to bring the orphan to **TCWH** or another wildlife care facility near you. There it will receive the proper diet and be raised with others of its own kind, so it can become a successful wild animal. A darkened cardboard box is perfectly acceptable accommodation for the trip. **While in your care, please do not feed or force water upon the animal**. Home concoctions such as sugar water, bread and milk, and peanut butter are inappropriate and will harm the baby. *Giving the wrong diet is far worse than giving no diet at all.*

All Animals

- ✓ Protect yourself!
- ✓ Do not feed!
- ✓ Keep dark and quiet!
- ✓ Do not handle or pet!
- ✓ Do not allow children to handle!

Drop Off Hours:

Our gate will be open and we will accept patients during most daylight hours, approximately:

Monday thru Saturday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday, 9:00 AM thru 5:00 PM