

We accept animal admissions every day of the week 8am-6pm.

If you have rescued an animal in the evening and need to keep it overnight...

Place the animal in a *well-ventilated covered box* (a cardboard box with air holes, or a plastic dog or cat kennel with a towel hanging over the door are ideal). Bird cages are NOT safe. Keep the animal in a dark, quiet place where they will be minimally disturbed and safe from children and pets. The animal will be less frightened and more likely to calm down if their box is completely dark and they do not hear human noise. Even if the animal does not appear stressed, they probably are: many adult birds will freeze in terror and appear quite calm when they are actually terrified.

Adult animals can be kept inside at room temperature, or out in a shed or basement (if confined to a box and safe from wildlife outside). Babies usually need supplementary heat (see below for more specific instructions). **Please do not attempt to give the animal any food or water.** Any animal (even a baby) can make it overnight without food, and *feeding the wrong food with the wrong tools is far more dangerous than not feeding*. The animal's best chance is if you bring it in when we open in the morning, but if you need to keep the animal for longer, give us a call in the morning and we will assess with you whether you should take further steps in the meantime.

Adult birds

Keep in a covered, ventilated box or crate. Wild birds injure themselves in birdcages, but cardboard boxes with air holes work very well for them. A towel on the bottom of the box for the bird to stand on is ideal but not necessary.

Baby birds

Please resist the temptation to feed baby birds – inexperienced feeding can often have fatal results. Place the babies on a towel or tissue in a well-ventilated, covered box. You can give them a “nest” if you’d like – a small bowl or cottage cheese container with tissues piled inside it. Babies need supplementary heat. It is ideal to use a heating pad: set it to LOW, wrap it in a towel, and place the box on top of it. Alternatively, you can use a hot water bottle, or any water/ soda bottle or zip-lock bag filled with hot water. (If you go with the zip-lock method, please double-bag to prevent leakage.) Wrap your hot-water bottle or bag in a towel and place it next to the babies in their box.

Are you still tempted to feed them? Many websites have instructions for feeding baby birds, but this is very dangerous. Feeding the wrong food (milk, hamburger, bread, earthworms or bugs to a species that doesn't eat them, or fruit to a species that doesn't eat it) will wreak digestive havoc on the baby's system, slow their growth over the long term, and make our job harder once we receive the patient. Giving food or water without proper tools and training often results in getting liquid in the baby's lungs which will usually cause pneumonia and sometimes death. If you can't resist the constant peeping, remind yourself that the parents wouldn't be feeding them overnight either. Once they are in a dark and quiet area, they will quiet down and go to sleep, just as they would in the nest after the sun sets. Please trust us: **the babies' best chance for survival is if you do not feed them!!!!**

Adult mammals

Keep in an escape-proof box. Any mammal except a porcupine will be more comfortable if you can put a towel or blanket in with them. **DO NOT** put any fabric in with a porcupine (it gets stuck in their quills!).

Baby mammals

Please resist the temptation to feed baby mammals – inexperienced feeding will often have fatal results. Wrap the babies loosely in a fleece blanket or towel and keep them in a well-ventilated, covered box. Babies need supplementary heat – a blanket is **NOT** enough to keep them warm. It is ideal to use a heating pad: set it to **LOW**, wrap it in a towel, and place the box on top of it. Alternatively, you can use a hot water bottle, or any regular water/soda bottle or zip-lock bag that is filled with hot water. (If you go with the zip-lock method, please double-bag to prevent leakage.) Wrap your hot-water bottle or bag in a towel and place it next to the babies in their box.

Are you still tempted to feed them? Many websites have instructions for feeding baby squirrels, bunnies, and other mammals, but this is very dangerous. Feeding the wrong food (baby formula, milk, powdered milk, yogurt, whipped cream) will wreak digestive havoc on the baby's system, slow their growth later, and make our job harder once we receive the patient. Feeding without proper tools and training often results in getting liquid in the baby's lungs which will usually cause pneumonia and sometimes death. If the babies are crying, make sure they are snuggled into a towel or fleece with a supplemental heat source. It is normal for babies to cry for their mother; this does not mean that they are in danger of starving overnight. They will eventually go to sleep. Please trust us: **the baby's best chance for survival is if you do not feed them!!!!**

Turtles

Keep a turtle in a box with a damp towel or rag underneath them to provide some moisture. Please do not put the turtle in water, and do not attempt to repair a broken shell. If you unearth turtle eggs in your yard, it is best to re-bury them. If you have to bring them in due to excavation, keep them in the dirt in which they were found and do your best to not jostle or shake them.

Thank you so much for your concern and your efforts to rescue a wild animal!