



Calvert County Environmental Commission

Sick and Injured Wildlife

1. If I see a wild animal that appears to be sick or injured, should I attempt to rescue it and try to rehabilitate it?

No. An unlicensed citizen may NOT attempt to rehabilitate a wild animal on their own. Also, if it is a young animal that is temporarily separated from its parents, it may not need to be rescued.

Interfering with it may do more harm than good. Unless an animal appears to be injured or is clearly in distress (see question 2 below), there is no need to rescue it. Their chances of survival are probably much better if left in their natural surroundings to be raised by their parents.

For more information, see “Think Twice Before Rescuing Young Wildlife” at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources website:

[Think Twice Before Rescuing Young Wildlife \(maryland.gov\)](http://maryland.gov)

2. What should I do if the wild animal is injured or in distress and clearly needs help?

During business hours (8:30 am – 4:30 pm, M-F), you should contact the Calvert Nature Society at <https://www.calvertparks.org/Wildlife>

Report what you observed about the animal and follow his instructions. They will determine if a Federal or State-licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator should be contacted, and arrangements made to transport the animal to a rehab. facility.

Sick or injured wild animals may bite and scratch, so do not attempt to handle an animal without wearing thick gloves. Many wild animals carry diseases that can be passed on to humans, like rabies, so do not attempt to touch them. Even reptiles (turtles) are known to carry the bacteria Salmonella and can make you sick. Also, do not attempt to feed the animal without first consulting with the Calvert Nature Society and another wildlife expert. Many foods can actually kill wild animals, and many are lost because people unknowingly poison them with their kindness.

More information on sick and injured wildlife can be found at [Sick and Injured Wildlife \(maryland.gov\)](http://maryland.gov).

3. Who are the licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators trained to take care of sick or injured animals found in Calvert County?

At this time, the County’s Natural Resources Division staff works with these Wildlife Rehabilitators:

Second Chance Wildlife Center in Gaithersburg MD, 301-926-9453 (birds, rabies vector mammals, reptiles, and amphibians). Rabies vector mammals include foxes, racoons, skunks, bats, and ground hogs.

Phoenix Wildlife Center in Pasadena MD, 410-939-5777 (songbirds and rabies vector mammals).

Owl Moon Raptor Center in Boyds MD, 301-353-8947 (birds, especially raptors—eagles, hawks, and owls).

For more information about Wildlife Rehabilitators, go to:

[MWRA - Maryland Wildlife Rehabilitators Association \(mwrwildlife.org\)](http://mwrwildlife.org)

[IWRC – Improving Wildlife Care Worldwide \(thewrc.org\)](http://thewrc.org)

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