HOW TO RESCUE BABY MAMMALS

(Only adults should rescue baby mammals. Before rescuing adult mammals, seek guidance from a wildlife rehabilitator.)

1. **Prepare a container.** Place a clean, soft cloth on the bottom of a cardboard box or cat/dog carrier with a lid. If it doesn't have air holes, make some. For smaller animals, you can use a paper sack with air holes punched in.
2. **Protect yourself.** Wear gloves, if possible. Some animals may bite or scratch to protect themselves, even if sick. Wild animals commonly have parasites (fleas, lice, ticks) and carry diseases.
3. **Cover the animal with a light sheet or towel.**
4. **Gently pick up the animal and put it in the prepared container.**
5. **Warm the animal if it's cold out or if the animal is chilled.** Put ONE END of the animal's container on a heating pad and set on low. Or fill a zip-top plastic bag, plastic soft drink container with a screw lid, or a rubber glove with hot water; wrap the warm container with cloth and put next to the animal. Make sure the container doesn't leak, or the animal will get wet and chilled.
6. **Tape the box shut or roll the top of the paper bag closed.**
7. **Note exactly where you found the animal.** This will be very important for release.
8. **Keep the animal in a warm, dark, quiet place.**
    *   Don't give it food or water.
    *   Leave it alone; don't handle or bother it.
    *   Keep children and pets away.
9. **Contact a wildlife rehabilitator, state wildlife agency, or wildlife veterinarian as soon as possible.**
    *   Don't keep the animal at your home longer than necessary.
    *   Keep the animal in a container; don't let it loose in your house or car.
10. **Wash your hands after contact with the animal.**
    *   Wash anything the animal was in contact with - towel, jacket, blanket, pet carrier - to prevent the spread of diseases and/or parasites to you or your pets.
11. **Get the animal to a wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.**

> It's against the law in most states to keep wild animals if you don't have permits, even if you plan to release them.