

Found an injured or orphaned duckling?

Look for mum!

- Ducklings will stay with their mother until they are ready to fly.
- Ducklings need their mothers to survive.
- If a mother duck does not claim her ducklings within 45-minutes, help is needed - call us!

Myth Busting

Female ducks will not reject their young if there is human scent on them.

If a duckling is trapped somewhere or in a dangerous place like a road, but mum is nearby, it is okay to pick them up and move them. The mother duck should claim her duckling as soon as they are free. If she doesn't, call us!

Unlike many other bird species, not all duck species will adopt lone ducklings.

It can be difficult to properly identify a duckling species, so do not try to place them with a nearby duck family; the newcomer has a high risk of being picked on and killed by the other ducklings or the mother duck.

Mother ducks can identify their young by sound, and will often not recognize or care for new ducklings.

Fostering Ducklings



Professional Care

Without their mothers or experienced and licensed wildlife rehabilitators, orphaned ducklings can die very quickly from hypothermia (even if it is warm out; they cannot generate their own body heat), dehydration, or lack of proper nutrition within 24-hours.

They are a lot more fragile than they appear, and ducklings can be easily injured if mishandled.

Have questions concerning injured or orphaned wildlife?
Call our **Wildlife Hotline: 403-946-2361.**