

Wildlife are Not Pets!

If you find injured or orphaned wildlife, do not keep them and try to care for them yourself.

It is illegal to keep wildlife

It is illegal and unethical to possess or rehabilitate wildlife without the proper zoo or wildlife rehabilitation permits. Interference with bird nests, migratory birds, and protected species is also illegal. For example, having a migratory bird (such as a goose or duck) in your possession without the proper permits, can lead to fines of up to \$1 million and up to 3 years in jail!

It is incredibly stressful for the animal

To take wild animals out of their natural environment is incredibly stressful for them. Our pet dogs and cats are a result of thousands of years of domestication, but a wild animal will not have a good quality of life if confined to an unnatural environment where they cannot properly exhibit natural wild animal behaviours.

Wildlife rehabilitation always aims to give them required care with as little stress as possible, and to return the animal back to the wild as soon as they are healed or old enough to survive on their own.



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



403-946-2361
aiwc.ca



Wildlife have specialized needs and need expert care immediately

Injured wildlife need the proper care and medication that can be provided by licensed facilities, veterinarians, and trained wildlife rehabilitators. All wildlife requires species-specific care in order to recover and thrive.

Human foods, such as cow's milk or bread, are not appropriate to feed any wildlife and will result in severe malnutrition which could cause death. Keeping wildlife without providing proper care and diet is unethical and can cause permanent harm in as little as one day.

If a baby wild animal is not raised in the proper conditions, and becomes habituated to humans, it becomes unlikely they can later be successfully released back to the wild where they belong.

Lots of wildlife don't need rescuing

Baby birds will naturally leave the nest approximately two weeks after they hatch, and then will spend the next two weeks on the ground, learning to fly, while their parents still care for them. Baby deer and hares will naturally be left alone during the day, and their mothers will come back at dusk and dawn to feed them quickly.

Don't be a kidnapper! Before accidentally "kidnapping" a healthy baby animal, be sure to call our Wildlife Hotline for advice first. If you need to move an animal away from immediate danger, such as a road, it is okay! Their mothers will not reject them if human scent is on them.



THE ANIMAL WELFARE FOUNDATION OF CANADA
(FOUNDATION DU BIEN-ÊTRE ANIMAL DU CANADA)