I Found a Baby Mammal
Now What?

Is the baby animal hurt or sick?
(Bleeding, shivering, vomiting, attacked by a cat or dog?)

No → **Can you find the nest or den? Is it intact?**

Yes → **Call a wildlife rehabilitator**

To find a wildlife rehabilitator in your area, contact:
- Your state wildlife agency
- Humane Society
- Audubon Society
- wild bird stores
- city animal control officer
- veterinarians (wildlife/exotic)
- Coast Guard or Marine Patrol
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- (online) Wildlife Rehabilitation Information Directory
- Fund for Animals Hotline: 203-389-4411 (Connecticut)

Can you find the nest or den? Is it intact?

Yes → **Put baby in the nest or den.**

No → **Put baby in a shallow box close to where it was found. Keep it warm but out of the sun.**

Watch for the mother for 4-6 hours. Stay out of sight. Mothers will *not* return if any people or pets are present.

Did the mother return?

Yes → **Leave the area. Baby is okay.**

No → **Call a wildlife rehabilitator.**

Unable to reach a rehabilitator? Call your state wildlife agency or a wildlife veterinarian.

If you're unable to reach any of the above, see instructions on back of this page: "How to Rescue Baby Mammals"

A baby mammal's best chance for survival is its mother!

If you find baby bunnies:

- **If their nest has been damaged,** it can be repaired. Look for a shallow depression lined with grass/fur. Place babies in nest with light layers of grass to hide them. Leave the area, or the mother won't return. (Mothers return at dawn & dusk.)
- **If you find healthy bunnies** that are 4-5 inches long, able to hop, with eyes open and ears up, they do not need help. They are able to survive on their own. Leave them alone. Questions? Call a wildlife rehabilitator.
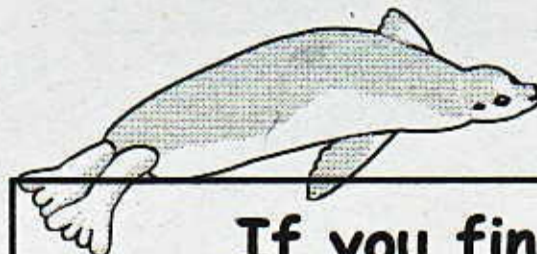
If you find a seal pup or fawn alone:
- Know that it's normal behavior for mothers to leave their babies alone while they feed.
- *But,* if the baby looks cold, hungry, diseased, or confused, or if dogs, other animals, or people threaten its safety, call a wildlife rehabilitator or park ranger.
- Otherwise, the seal pup or fawn is safe. **Leave it alone** and leave the area. Mothers will *not* return if any people or pets are present.

Healers of the Wild, Shannon K. Jacobs. Johnson Books, 2003.

How to Rescue Baby Mammals

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

1. **Prepare a container.** Place a 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 container on a heating pad 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 warm container with cloth, and put it 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. **Take 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.