

TIPS FOR PROTECTING WILDLIFE

1. **If you care, leave it there.** Many fledglings and young animals have not been abandoned and are still being cared for.
2. **Do not let cats and dogs roam free to 'play with' and kill wild creatures.** As a predator, cats can injure and kill birds and small mammals.
3. **Give your Windex a holiday.** Birds often fly into patio doors and picture windows. Use decals, hanging plants, stained-glass decorations (even fingerprints!) to help alert feathered neighbors to glass barriers.
4. **Teach children to respect all wild creatures and their homes.** All animals play an important role in a healthy ecosystem.
5. **Inspect your property before cutting grass, pruning trees, 'weed-whacking,' and cultivating gardens.**
6. **Do not attempt to capture and raise wild animals.** In Pennsylvania, it is illegal to possess wild animals without a permit.
7. **Discard fishing line and hooks properly.** Birds and animals suffer terrible injuries when they become entangled in fishing line or stabbed by fishhooks. Trash like plastic bags, kite strings, six-pack rings, and balloons may also be harmful to wildlife.
8. **Be aware: Discarded food lures wildlife to the road,** where cars may hit them.

Pennsylvania Game Commission

Southeast Regional Office

448 Snyder Road
Reading, PA 19605

(610) 926-3136
(610) 926-3137

www.pgc.state.pa.us

In Pennsylvania, it is illegal to possess wild animals without a permit, even if your intention is to try to help it. The Pennsylvania Game Commission regulates these laws and issues permits for rehabilitation. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have additional requirements for rehabilitators that deal with birds.

*Created and compiled by:
Chester County Parks & Recreation
Department.*

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*What should
you do if you
find an
injured wild
animal?*

How to Help Injured Wildlife

CHESTER COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION
DEPARTMENT

601 WESTTOWN ROAD, SUITE 160
WEST CHESTER, PA 19380-0990

610-344-6415

www.chesco.org/ccparks

How to Help Injured Wildlife – The Three “C’s”

- CHECK.** Without getting too close, gather as much information as you can about the wild creature.
 - ❖ Make a note of the exact location where you found the wildlife.
 - ❖ What brought this bird or animal to your attention?
 - ❖ Is the wildlife a baby or an adult? Can you tell?
 - ❖ Is it bright-eyed and wary of humans?
 - ❖ Do you see visible injury—blood, a droopy wing or limb?
 - ❖ Do you see anything (a window or cat, for instance) that might have caused the wildlife’s apparent illness or injury?

2. CALL. Share the information you have collected about the wildlife with a trained, licensed wildlife rehabilitator. These wildlife experts can provide you with information over the telephone to help you decide the best action to take.

These rehabilitators in the Chester County region have been licensed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission to rehabilitate wild animals. This list does not constitute County endorsement of any of these agencies

- CARE.** **You should not care for wildlife yourself – it is against the law.** To transport wildlife to a rehabilitator licensed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, follow these steps:
 - ❖ Prepare a cardboard box (with a lid and air holes punched in the sides and top) or pet carrier by placing a clean, soft, dry cloth on the bottom. Be sure to use a box that is about the same size as the animal.
 - ❖ Do **NOT** offer the wild creature food or water.

- ❖ Protect yourself from bites, scratches, disease, and parasites by putting on a pair of gloves—leather is best. It is best to leave overly aggressive animals for the trained professionals.
- ❖ To pick up the animal, cover it with a light sheet or towel, then gently lift and place it in the container. If the animal is difficult or impossible to catch, let it go. It does not need help.
- ❖ Secure the lid on your container with duct tape or a latch.
- ❖ Put the container in a warm, dark and quiet place until you can take it to the rehabilitator. Do not attempt to soothe or stroke the wildlife; this type of behavior stresses wild creatures.
- ❖ **Most Importantly – Wash your hands thoroughly.**

<i>Rehabilitator</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Website</i>	<i>Animals served</i>
AARK Wildlife Rehabilitation	Chalfont	215-249-1938	www.aark.org	all species
Diamond Rock Wildlife Rehabilitation	Malvern	610-240-0883	www.diamondrockwildlife.org	raccoons, foxes, skunks, bats, groundhogs, & coyotes
Main Line Wildlife Rehabilitation	Ardmore	610-649-0117		squirrels, rabbits, groundhogs, other rodents
Schuylkill Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic	Roxborough	215-482-8217	www.schuylkillcenter.org/departments/wildlife	birds, mammals, reptiles
Tri-State Bird Rescue	Newark	302-737-9543	www.tristatebird.org	all species of birds
White Flicker Wild Bird Rehabilitation	Ambler	215-643-1263	www.whiteflicker.org	songbirds, woodpeckers, swifts, swallows

Find other rehabilitators by visiting the Pennsylvania Association of Wildlife Rehabilitators website at www.pawr.com.