

FOR AN AUTHENTIC NORTHERN EXPERIENCE,
RESPECT WILDLIFE BY KEEPING YOUR DISTANCE.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND SICK, INJURED OR ORPHANED WILDLIFE

Common examples

- Birds take a few days to learn to fly after leaving the nest and may appear clumsy and lost. Their parents are often looking for food and will return to feed them while they learn to fly. Removing them from the wild or feeding them can be harmful and get them used to human contact or food, which is not good for them.
- Young squirrels, rabbits and foxes are commonly found in the summer months, often in yards or close to walking trails. They are extremely sensitive to stress, including changes in their environment, and it is always best to leave them alone.

If you are concerned about possible sick, injured or orphaned wildlife, contact your local or regional ENR office or email wildlifeobs@gov.nt.ca.

Contact information

Fort Simpson	867-695-7450
Emergencies (May-Sept):	867-695-7433
Fort Smith	867-872-6400
Emergencies (May-Sept):	867-872-0400
Hay River	867-875-5550
Emergencies (May-Sept):	867-875-7640
Inuvik	867-678-6650
Emergencies (May-Oct):	867-678-0289
Norman Wells	867-587-3606
Emergencies:	867-587-2422
Yellowknife	867-767-9238 ext. 53461
Emergencies:	867-873-7181

www.enr.gov.nt.ca

Une version française de ce document est disponible.

Government of
Northwest Territories



WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND SICK, INJURED OR ORPHANED WILDLIFE

Each year, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) receives reports of sick, injured or orphaned wildlife. However, many young animals are not “orphans” in need of rescuing. Some species leave their offspring temporarily, especially during the day, to relocate them or to search for food. The parents are usually nearby, even if they are not visible to you. Removing an animal from their habitat can often do more harm than good.



ENR handles each report of a possible sick, injured or orphaned animal on a case-by-case basis.

If you encounter an animal you think might be sick, injured or orphaned, you may be tempted to take matters into your own hands, but even the very best of intentions can put the animal or yourself at risk. Taking wildlife into captivity can be dangerous to both animals and humans.

Instead, follow these simple steps:

- 1** Do not remove the animal from its natural habitat.
- 2** Maintain a safe distance, periodically checking on the animal for 24 to 48 hours.
- 3** If the mother has not returned within 48 hours, contact your local or regional ENR office.

