



## Found a sick, injured or orphaned animal?

These links will help you connect with a licensed wildlife rehabilitator near you. Rehabilitators are often busy caring for their patients so please leave a message and wait for a call back. It's important to call quickly. Waiting even a short time greatly decreases a sick or injured animal's chance of survival. Never give the animal anything to eat or drink and please follow the expert's advice closely. After providing the necessary care for the animal, most rehabilitators will release it near where it was found. So, if you rescue an animal, you might get to enjoy its release back to the wild!

### Northern Virginia

In Northern Virginia: **Wildlife Veterinary Care**, 540-664-9494 (<http://www.WildlifeVetCare.com>)

**Blue Ridge Wildlife Center**, 540-837-9000 (<https://www.blueridgewildlifectr.org/>)

For help with wildlife throughout Virginia, call the **Department of Wildlife Resources** at 855-571-9003 or go to their website <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife> to find a rehabilitator close to home

### Maryland

**Second Chance Wildlife Center**, 301-926-WILD (9453) (<https://www.scwc.org/>)

**Owl Moon Raptor Center**, 301-353-8947 (<https://OwlMoon.org>) [birds of prey]

For help with wildlife throughout Maryland, call the **Department of Natural Resources** at 877-463-6497 or visit their website [https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants\\_wildlife/sickorinjured.aspx](https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/sickorinjured.aspx).

### Washington DC

**City Wildlife** at 202-882-1000 (<https://CityWildlife.org>)

### Regional Help

In all three areas, you can call the **Wildlife Rescue League** at 703-440-0800 to be connected with a local rehabilitator (<https://www.WildlifeRescueLeague.com>)

### Rescuing a Bird of Prey

For the best information on how to safely handle an injured raptor, go to the Minnesota Raptor Center website at <https://www.raptor.umn.edu/clinic/help-injured-raptor>.

### Rescuing Rabies Vector Species

Use extreme caution and call for advice **before** approaching and handling any rabies vector species. This includes foxes, skunks, raccoons, groundhogs, and bats. Improper handling puts you at risk and may necessitate euthanizing the animal to test for rabies.

[www.SecretGardenBirdsAndBees.com](http://www.SecretGardenBirdsAndBees.com)

[www.Facebook.com/SecretGardenBirdsAndBees](https://www.Facebook.com/SecretGardenBirdsAndBees)

*Secret Garden Birds and Bees is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization working with wildlife rehabilitators, falconers, naturalists, biologists and beekeepers to share our love of nature and wildlife with our communities.*



## Create a Safe Habitat for Hawks & Owls

*At Secret Garden Birds and Bees, we work with hawks, owls and honey bees. But anything done to create a safe habitat for them, will benefit all wildlife and provide a healthier, more natural environment for you and your family.*

- **Do not use rodenticides (rat and mouse poisons) to control rodents:** Poisoned rodents do not die quickly. They return to the wild, weak and sick, where they are easy prey for owls and hawks. Consuming just a few poisoned mice can kill a raptor. Did you know that a family of owls will consume thousands of mice in a year – more than you will kill with poisons? Throw the poisons away and let the hawks and owls do their job! In your home, you can safely use natural repellents like peppermint essential oil, available at hardware stores in small packets for closets and pantries and as a spray for larger areas. Live traps are effective if you relocate the mice a distance from your home. Snap traps are also an option and are more humane than poisons or glue traps. For more go to <https://www.raptorsarethesolution.org/>.
- **Avoid pesticides:** Insects make up a large part of a small raptor's diet and insects are often fed to nestlings. Consuming insects contaminated with pesticides allows a lethal dose of the poison to build up in the bird, killing her and her young. By replacing a traditional lawn with native grasses and clovers, and replacing exotic plants with native ones, your garden will thrive without toxic chemicals and you will save our native pollinators along with your own time and money. For more go to <https://www.nwf.org/garden-for-wildlife/about/national-initiatives/plant-for-pollinators>.
- **Make your windows bird-safe:** Window strikes kill 1 billion birds in the US each year. There are inexpensive, easy-to-use products for windows that can save the lives of many birds - some are transparent to the human eye. Relocating bird feeders to within 3 ft of your windows helps too. For more go to <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/why-birds-hit-windows-and-how-you-can-help-prevent-it/>.
- **Keep your cat indoors:** Free-ranging domestic cats kill more than a billion birds each year. This shouldn't happen. With care and enrichment, cats can adjust to indoor life. And the life of an indoor cat will be longer and healthier without the risk of being attacked by other animals, being hit by a car, contracting a disease, or coming home with ticks and fleas. For more on the impact cats have on the ecosystem, go to <https://abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/cats-and-birds/>.
- **Be careful on the roads:** Many raptors are hit by cars. Owls are most at risk from late fall through early spring when late sunrises and early sunsets put commuters on the roads when nocturnal animals are most active. But collisions with hawks, eagles and vultures occur during the day too. One of the most important things you can do to reduce vehicle-wildlife collisions, is to keep the roadsides free of trash. The scent of food in trash attracts many prey species. And the presence of prey attracts hawks, owls, foxes, opossums and others. So, please do not litter and consider working with a group to adopt a stretch of road and clean up the mess left by others.
- **Keep the night dark and quiet:** Wildlife depends on the daily cycle of light and dark for life-sustaining behaviors such as reproduction, nourishment, sleep and protection from predators. Owls use the cover of darkness to hide them while they hunt – listening for their prey. A bright noisy environment makes it difficult for an owl to use its natural abilities of night vision and excellent hearing to capture prey. For more go to <https://www.darksky.org/>.
- **For hunters and fisherman:** Do not use lead ammunition or fishing tackle. Every year, 16 million birds in the US - many of them bald eagles - are poisoned by lead from bullet fragments when feeding on the remains of a hunter's kill or ingesting lead fishing weights when feeding on fish. A fragment of lead the size of a grain of rice is enough to kill an eagle. For more go to [https://www.nps.gov/pinn/learn/nature/upload/USGS\\_lead\\_poisoning\\_wild\\_birds\\_2009.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/pinn/learn/nature/upload/USGS_lead_poisoning_wild_birds_2009.pdf).

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