

The Wildlife Rescue League is a non-profit group of wildlife rehabilitators with permits issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia (and in many cases U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service also) who take care of injured and orphaned animals and return them to the wild. Wildlife rehabilitation is paid for by the individual, and the League and its supporting membership assist with supplies and volunteers for transporting, answering the wildlife hotline, etc. Membership in the League is open to all who want to support this effort. If you would like to become a member, donate money or supplies, or volunteer, please call or write us.



Wildlife Rescue League
PO Box 704
Falls Church, VA 22040
(703) 391-8625

e-mail: wrl@wildliferescueleague.org
web site: www.wildliferescueleague.org

The WRL is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization. A copy of the current financial statement for the Wildlife Rescue League is available by request from the Virginia Division of Consumer Affairs Office in Richmond, Virginia. Donations to the Wildlife Rescue League are tax deductible as allowed by law.

CFC/UNITED WAY # 7843

Animal moved into your home? Found an injured or orphaned bird? Need some wildlife advice?

Call the wildlife hotline:

(703) 440-0800

10 Ways You and Your Family Can Help Wildlife!



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1. Don't become the food source for wild animals. Animal populations need to be naturally balanced to the environment. Do not encourage wildlife who do their foraging at night by leaving garbage or pet food outside or leaving shed or garage doors open. Don't encourage wildlife to eat from your hand.
2. Do not kidnap baby animals. Most young animals are not orphaned but are being cared for by nearby parents. If you aren't sure if it should be rescued, call the wildlife hotline.
3. Obey speed limits! Watch for animals crossing the road and take responsibility for an animal if you hit it with your car. If you see a dead opossum in the spring, check to see if it is a female with babies clinging to her who need to be rescued.
4. Dispose of your garbage properly and pick up garbage you see outside. Waste can be hazardous to wildlife. Some of the worst are can lids, yogurt containers, bottles with sweet sticky things inside, and plastic six-pack rings.
5. Use non-toxic alternatives to pesticides, rodenticides, and herbicides. Toxic chemicals can affect the whole food chain -- insects, mammals, songbirds, and birds of prey -- as well as domestic animals and humans.
6. Place bird feeders a safe distance from windows and neighborhood cats. Disinfect seed feeders at least once a month and hummingbird feeders every few days (especially when it is hot). Dispose of moldy or contaminated seed. Keep the ground under feeders clean of debris and move your feeders a few feet every year.
7. Animal-proof your home before critters move in. Close off openings to attics, seal holes around the basement, screen vents and gutters, and install chimney caps. Keep branches pruned on any trees near the sides or roof of your home so wildlife will not have a ladder onto your property. Check at least once a year for any area needing repairs in your attic, chimney, exhaust vents, eaves and overhangs, etc. that could encourage animals to enter. Repair any weak spots immediately. *Check carefully for nests before cutting down trees or cleaning your chimney in the spring and summer! If an animal does enter your house, don't trap it, especially during baby season! Call the wildlife hotline for advice.*
8. Keep domestic pets inside or on a leash. It only takes seconds for a cat or dog to injure wildlife. (Not only is that very bad for the wildlife, it may mean that your pet will have to be quarantined.)
9. Before mowing in the spring and summer, check for grassy mounds or disturbed areas which are the sign of a rabbit nest. Be careful not to mow over the nest, and keep dogs and cats away from baby rabbits. Mother rabbits only feed their babies at dawn and dusk, so don't assume the babies are orphans!
10. Fish responsibly: take fishing gear and fish remains with you when you are done fishing, and watch out for birds when casting.

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