

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 ECC office or email [wildlifeobs@gov.nt.ca](mailto:wildlifeobs@gov.nt.ca).

### Contact information

<b>Fort Simpson</b>	867-695-7450
Emergencies (May-Sept):	867-695-7433
<b>Fort Smith</b>	867-872-6400
Emergencies (May-Sept):	867-872-0400
<b>Hay River</b>	867-875-5550
Emergencies (May-Sept):	867-875-7640
<b>Inuvik</b>	867-678-8091 ext. 53661
Emergencies (May-Oct):	867-678-0289
<b>Norman Wells</b>	867-587-3500
Emergencies:	867-587-2422
<b>Yellowknife</b>	867-767-9238 ext. 53247
Emergencies:	867-446-2073

[www.gov.nt.ca/ecc](http://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc)

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 Climate Change (ECC) 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.



**ECC 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 ECC office.

