



How to make a surrogate mammal nest

1. Find a container such as a small box.
2. Fill the box with leaves, paper towels or a clean, soft cloth.
3. If the baby's eyes are closed, add a warmed sock filled with rice for heat. (<https://www.healthline.com/health/pain-relief/how-to-make-a-homemade-heating-pad>)
4. Place the nest in the tree or bush closest to where the animal was found, out of the sun and rain, as high up as you can safely manage.
5. Place the animal(s) in the nest (wear gloves) and leave the area.



Is the baby mammal a rabbit, deer fawn, baby fox or opossum?

YES – See below

Baby Rabbit

If the nest is still intact, place the baby(ies) back into the nest and cover with twigs or leaves. The nest will be a shallow depression in the ground, lined with fur, usually located under brush or other form of cover including tall grass. Leave the area. If people or pets are present, the mother will not return. The mother visits the nest at dawn and dusk for only a few minutes at a time.

If the baby rabbits are at least four to five inches long, able to hop, have their eyes open and ears up, and there are no visible signs of injury, leave them alone. They are old enough to be on their own and do not need to be in a nest.

Deer Fawn

Mothers normally leave their babies alone while they forage for food. If the baby looks cold, hungry, diseased, or confused, or if dogs, other animals, or people threaten the baby's safety, or if you found the dead mother, call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. (See section **"To find a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in you area"** on page 1.) Otherwise, leave the baby alone and leave the area. ***The mother will not return if people or pets are present.*** If you have touched or moved the baby, put it back and check 24 hours later. If the baby is still in the same spot, call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

Baby Fox

Mothers normally leave their babies alone while they forage for food. If the kit looks cold, hungry, diseased, or confused, or if dogs, other animals, or people threaten the kit's safety, call a wildlife rehabilitator. They will dispatch an expert to evaluate the kit. Otherwise, leave the baby alone and leave the area. ***The mother will not return if people or pets are present.***

Never attempt to rescue a fox yourself. Doing so may endanger both you and the kit.

Opossum

Young opossums who are five to six inches long (excluding the tail) are large enough to be independent from their mothers. If you find an opossum five to six inches or longer who does not appear to be injured or in distress, leave the animal alone. If you are uncertain of whether or not the animal is in distress, call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. (See section **"To find a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in you area"** on page 1.) Opossums smaller than 5-6" found with no mom present can be assumed to be orphans, call a wildlife rehabilitator.

How to safely contain a wild animal

1. Find a suitable container (cardboard box, pet carrier). Poke air holes in it, if needed. Line it with a clean, soft cloth.
2. Gently pick up the animal (wear gloves) and place in the container.
3. Place the container 1/2 on 1/2 off a heating pad on the lowest setting. If a heating pad is not available, use a hot water bottle, a plastic soda bottle filled with hot water or a rice bag and cover with a towel. Place it inside the container, next to the animal for warmth.
4. Secure the container so the animal cannot crawl or jump out.
5. Keep the animal in a warm, dark, quiet place. Do not give her food or water. Leave her alone.
6. Take the animal to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.