

Among Friends

Summer 2013

Volume 9, Issue 1

News, views and updates on animal issues in Antrim County



**WITH
a LITTLE
HELP FROM
MY FRIENDS**

WITH a LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS, INC.

With a Little Help From My Friends is a public charity. Organization identification number 38-3605652 section 501C (3). As a nonprofit WaLHFMF works on donations without county, state or federal funding.

3820 Ritt Road · Bellaire, MI 49615
(231) 533-4070
walhfmf_4@hotmail.com
walhfmf.org

Mission Statement

Protecting and teaching compassion for the animals in Antrim County.

Center Hours

Open Tue-Friday 10-4 closed 12-1
Saturday 10-Noon
Closed Sunday and Monday

Annual Events

4th Annual 5k Pet Run/Walk
Saturday, August 17, 2013

13th Annual Chili Cook Off and Silent Auction
Sunday, October 27th, 2013

9th Annual Holiday Pet Photos
Saturday, November 16, 2013

11th Annual Garage Sale
Saturday, May 24th, 2014

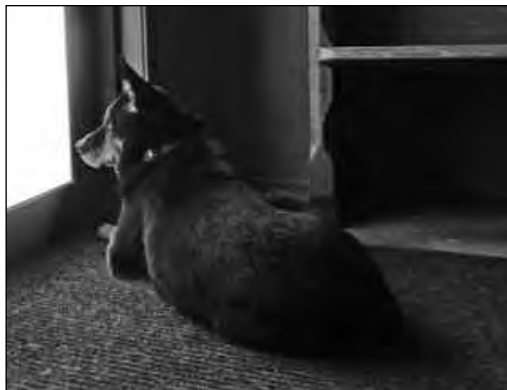
Look for other WaLHFMF events throughout the year.

WaLHFMF loves to hear from adults and kids! Send us your stories, jokes, drawings, and pictures.

WaLHFMF reserves the right, without further consideration, to use all entries in any publication, media and related promotions.

Keep a copy for yourself, entries can not be returned.

Visit our GREAT adoptable PETS at Petfinder.com and WalHFMF.org
You can also Donate Online!



Misty came to us in March, 2012 when her owner lost their home, and was forced to live in her car until eventually leaving the area. Misty is 13 years old and runs the the center like it's her job keeping even the most rambunctious dogs in their place. She has a medical condition that keeps her from finding a new home but because of the center and her adaptive personality Misty will live out her life at the center.

With a Little Help From My Friends' Pet Crisis Center has gained two full time residents since opening in June of 2011.

Moka likes to spend her days laying in the office waiting for visitors and has since July, 2011. Due to her age (15 years young) and declining health she became a full time resident and the center's mascot well over a year ago. Her carefree spirit and happy bark as the volunteers have started calling it, greets everyone who stops in.



Central Lake Elementary School's After School Program's painting class added a splash of color to the center with this mural for the entry way. The high school shop class is working on their next project for the cat room— a cat tower.

The people of Central Lake, including the schools and businesses, have been very supportive of the Pet Crisis Center helping out in any way they can.

To them and all of the center's supporters - thank you!

You can follow the progress of this wonderful facility on facebook or walhfmf.org Also feel free to call the Pet Crisis Center at 231-533-4070 for information on our adoptables or email us at walhfmf_4@hotmail.com.



ADOPT-A-PET!

Candy is an 8 month old spayed lab mix. She is part of the 47% of dogs relinquished to the shelter each year from 5 months to 3 years. She is part of 96% of dogs at animal control who have received no training. Candy is a smart puppy who is already sitting and wants to please. She needs a good loving home who can give her some time, training and the affection she is so longing for.

President's Corner



I was thinking today about the animals at the pet crisis center and how proud I am of the quality of care they receive. The veterinary

services are top notch and I am convinced our volunteers are some of the best. I was also thinking how each of the animals have such unique personalities. Even when we have siblings their personalities are very different.

It's hard for many of the pets that leave a person's lap all day with no other pets in the home to arrive at the center where there are a lot of animals. Some of them love life at the center but some are scared and don't even want to come out of their sleeping cages. We give them all lots of love but it's not the same as their home was. It's like if you were all of a sudden pulled out of your family and put in with people who cared for you but were complete strangers. We get very attached to these animals. It is always with tears in our eyes when they leave for a new home. But those tears are done when we get a picture back of them sleeping in bed with their own person or getting a big hug from a child you can see loves them. Seeing this is like a pat on the back and saying job well done. With a Little Help From My Friends realizes without your help and generosity these happy endings would not be possible and that it truly is *with a little help from my friends*. We still stay very full so we have a lot of work to do educating the importance of spay and neutering your pets but I feel we are making an impact. Please help us keep up the good work and as always thanks for listening.



Heather Knust
President



— Wish List —

Below is our summer wish list for items the sanctuary will need to keep stocked. Any donation is appreciated and needed!

- Wags to Wiskers Pet Supplies Gaylord gift cards
www.wagstowiskersgaylord.com
or (989) 731-4200
- Artwork of pets
- Canister vacuum
- Cat beds
- Cat & Dog toys
- Cat & Dog treats (nutritional ones)
- Dishwasher
- Dishwasher tabs
- Disposable gloves
- Extra large heavy trash bags
- Fleece blankets or material
- New Laptop computer/Microsoft Office
- Laundry soap for front load washing machine
- Money for pet supplies
- Postage stamps
- Recycled newspaper cat litter
- Thick paper towels
- 40" or larger flat screen for presentations
- Motivated volunteers 😊



A big thank you to Wags to Wiskers Pet Supplies in Gaylord for their continually support and donations.

What you may not know about Fleas, Ticks and Parasites

As we anxiously await warmer weather, undoubtedly the furry members of our families will be just as ready to get outdoors and enjoy the fun the nice weather brings. We have probably all heard by now all about the Heartworms, Intestinal Worms and fleas, but there are a few less familiar creepy crawly things to watch out as we head outside.

The thought of ticks is always unsettling and you may be aware that ticks some places carry diseases, but do you know what is lurking right in your backyard? The most widely known tick disease - lyme disease - has increased in prevalence in our state significantly over the last 10 years. A disease that was once only found in Menominee county in our state, is now found from Southwest Michigan all along the Lake Michigan border as far north as Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties. Antrim county is considered at high risk.

Ticks also carry other diseases you may not have heard about, including Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Ehrlichiosis, Babesiosis, and Anaplasmosis. All of these disease have been diagnosed with varying degrees of prevalence in Michigan. Many of these diseases can be difficult to diagnose because signs are not specific. If left untreated, these diseases can be fatal. When it comes to tick diseases, as with most things, prevention is the best medicine.

Another parasite, waiting to be found in the water, is Giardia. This little protozoa infects your pets when they drink from a pond, lake, or stream. There were 600 to 700 cases reported annually in Michigan from 2006-2008. While it may not be quite as scary as the diseases the ticks bring along, what your carpets will look like may be scary. Giardia can cause severe diarrhea in our furry friends. It requires specific medication to kill it and persistent diarrhea can lead to dehydration and dangerous electrolyte disturbances. There are sensitive tests to detect this very small parasite in your

– Continued on page 3

– Continued from page 2

pets. Do your best to keep your pets from drinking from these bodies of water, especially smaller ones that wildlife frequent.

You might say we saved the worst for last: Leptospirosis. This bacteria is found in moist soils, standing water, and dewy grass. If this bacteria comes in contact with our pets' mouths or noses (and what doesn't) it may cause a severe infection of the kidneys, liver, or other organs leading to organ failure. It is shed in the urine of rodents, raccoons, and skunks. Depending on the strain, this can make pets very sick very quickly. Luckily there is a vaccine that has helped to keep the prevalence low, though outbreaks have been known to occur. Make sure if your dogs are at risk, they are vaccinated.

We spend a lot of time with our pets both indoors and outdoors. For most of us they are a regular part of the family. A final note to keep in mind as we consider taking preventive steps to ensure the health of our furry family members; tick borne diseases, Giardia, and Leptospirosis can be transmitted to humans as well.

*Dr. Brandon Hajdo-Fernandez, DVM
North Country Veterinary Service
Ellsworth, Michigan
(231) 588-2190*



In Memory Of

**Daisy Mae, Our Beautiful Airedale
1998-2012**

Julie and Lee Wollgast

Our precious Willow
Carol and Tom Artusi

Kevin Noyes-Boston, MA
Sally Adamson

Lina
Lynn Babcock

Charles De Verney
Donna De Verney

Gipsy, best friend and kind spirit.
Ryan McConne

Jack Rice
Joe Paulshock

Sadie
Mary Morrison and Pam Walsh

Angel
Pat Koch

All those pets we have loved before...
Duane and Debbie Chappuies

Muzzy
Debbie and Steve Francis

Linda Prokop
John, Amy, Paige and Shane Talbot

Birch
Duane and MaryAnne Jorgensen

Fluffy and Gidget
Ron and Elaine La Lone

Jean Safford
Anna Rita Brown

V. Diane Newburg
Gary and Vicki Gilbert

Lucku, Kutya, Deeter and Skeeter
Rick and Vicki Olsafsky

My parents
Eugene Selden

Anna Kolek
Witowki's

Rueban, Tassy and Seal
Cherie Hogan

Dakota-Rescue dog
Michele Stephens

Donnie Minish
Your favorite sister Carol Ann

Geraldine "Jerry" Imes
Central Lake Pharmacy Staff

Michelle Palgut
Vicki and Gary Gilbert

Marjorie Veliquette
Lillian McLachlan

My beloved Muffy
Rose Sloat

Karin Harrison
Dave Harrison

Karin Harrison
Heather and Jim Knust

Alan Fowler
Bob and Jean Howard

Carol Hubbell
Donald and Lillian McLachlan

**Our very dear friend Barbara
Wenner-Plasky**
Gary and Vicki Gilbert

Perry Willianson
Duane and MaryAnn Jorgensen

Mouse
All thos that loved you

In Honor Of

Heidi
Barry and Donna Rutter

Betty and Joe Renner
Michael Renner

Maureen Frey
Andy, Jennifer and Shannon Frey

Bret and Andie Dewey
Luanne Donaldson

Bret and Andie Dewey
Christine Dewey

Aunt Sophie
Butch and Liz Bartz

Fancy
Tom and Connie Kiessel

Bill Smith's cats Logan and Carmel.
Nancy Weston

Albert
Sarah Williams

Ruby, our Beautiful new puppy
*Renne, Matt, Mason Mosoryak and
Olivia Reed*

Send your donation and
In Memory Of or In Honor Of to:
With a Little Help From My Friends
3820 Ritt Road
Bellaire, Michigan 49615

A small sampling of



Will, Bea and Leise enjoy being only pets at the Morey Home. They were lucky enough to be adopted together. After being left on the side of the road in a box with two other cats they became the Center's Christmas rescue.

Molly now has her own window to soak up the sun. She was adopted this spring by the Perrigo family who take lots of time to spoil her.



Caesar 10 years old, lost his only owner. Lucky for him Heather Fegan and her son fell head over heels for this sweet old guy.



Smokey took over the hearts of the Csapo's and most of their house.



Mickey is living the good life at his new home. He arrived at the center after his owner died. Mickey now rides around with his new owner Chris Light and goes on walks daily!



Caesar



Zaira (Snowflake) was adopted by Jade and her father Brian Lounsbury. As you can tell its a rough life.



Emily enjoys playtime with her human pack and never lacks for attention from the Neer family.

Emma was adopted by the Hisem family and enjoys playtime and naps with her human brothers.

our happy endings!



Rain is enjoying her new life as Beverly Stroup companion which includes daily walks and lots of attention!

Eddie the Manx tail cat found in the Christmas rescue box has found a loving home with the Zambeck family. He now spends his day laying on the couch watching the wildlife in his backyard.



Ruby (aka Megan) loves her new family Renee, Matt, Mason Mosoryak and Olivia Reed and their walks through town.



Callie and Snuggles (last newsletter front page adopt a pet) spent a year and half at the center before being adopted by Megan Nelson and Pat Harper, the wait was worth it! The sisters now live with another calico sister.



Penelope lives with Suzanne Gardner as a spoiled only cat, able to take over the entire bed in a single leap.

Tina hit the jackpot not once but twice. After her first home had to return her, Gene and Kathy Plaggemars were more then willing to take her home after just missing out adopting her the first time.



Skunk can now race around the Fila home with all kinds of toys all to himself.

From the Front Lines

by Jenna Minish, Center Coordinator

I can admit I have a favorite right? I love them all for their unique personalities and special stories but if you ask me at any given time there is always one who has caught my eye.

Andy is a my favorite. He is a big loveable guy, enjoys pets, kisses and most importantly my first thing in the morning singing, at least he acts like he does. Once upon a time Andy had a loving family all his own. They had him neutered, front declawed and took wonderful care of him and Andy was as happy as a cat could be.

Like most of the animals here at the center the bad economy has lead many people to make rough decisions about moving, jobs and housing. Andy's owner had taken a job across the country and taking their two cats was just not an option. Since arriving at the center in December Andy's "Brother" was adopted to a wonderful family and Andy was left to wait for new home. The day Andy was adopted

everyone at the center was excited. Including Andy, very rarely do you see a cat so content to be in a cage but he knew what was happening.

ADOPT-A-PET!



Andy loves people but not so much other cats. he would do fine with a gentle dog and older children. He is 6 years old, neutered, front declawed, up to date on shots and tested negative FIV, FeLV, FHW.

Within 24hours Andy had returned. Not because he was not adjusting, and not because he was anything but a wonderful cat. In those short hours it was discovered that he had crystals. This was not a life threatening illness but one that required a special diet and a watchful eye. This was something Andy's new family was not willing to take on.

As I write this Andy is laying in the sun in the cat room. He is still waiting for a home of his very own. Little does he know that it will be even harder for him, now Andy has baggage. His winning personality and good looks will need to work even harder to find an understanding soul. Of course a cat with a special diet is not the easiest and not for everyone. I can say from experience that having a cat with "baggage" is worth ever extra hour and every extra dollar if you can do it.

ADOPT-A-PET!



Gracie (above) and Clare are 1 year old, spayed, tested negative for FIV, FeLV, FHW and up to date on shots. They would love a home together.



Life's Twists and Turns By: Carrie Dewey

It had been a crazy week. Between work responsibilities and family obligations, I was ready for the weekend. We finished up volunteering at a fundraiser, I talked my unhappy daughter into leaving her peers early, and we headed for home. Halfway home we drove past two objects, which we all realized - as we were passing them - were cats; one at the edge of the road and the other in the middle of the road, as if willing death, or daring a stranger to stop. Driving with two kids, ages 9 and 11, as well as a spirited chocolate lab, my weekend rest was not about to begin.

With our lab, Cookie, in a make-shift cage behind the back seats, the cats easily allowed me to wrap them in dog blankets and each child carefully held their near-frozen, terrified bundle as I drove the last ten minutes home. You can imagine the will I put out for all animals to stay in their respective location! At least there was a sweet apology from my daughter that she was so happy we left her friends so we could save these kitties.

Once home, we fed and inspected them. They were far too cold and needed a warm house to begin their recovery from this trauma, so we made a temporary quarantine room in one of our bathrooms. As we already have our own two cats, and were not in the market for two more, I called the Sheriff's Department to see if they could help. Sadly, I was told to keep them until Monday morning when they could then be dropped off at Animal Control. I was informed that we were required to bring them there in case the owner was searching, also that they would be there 5-7 business days before an adoption into a new home could take place.

Well, the previous owner never did show up. Thanks to donations and volunteers who run With a Little Help from My Friends Pet Crisis Center, our kitties, now affectionately called Gracie and Clare, have landed a temporary home until a new family falls in love and adopts them. They have both been spayed, given medicine for severe ear mites, and a nutritious diet that will soon make their fur shine again. We continue to visit the center each week to play with the sisters, not to mention the other 13 cats, and dogs always waiting for a walk. Although I missed my relaxing weekend, there is a sense of fulfillment I could never have gotten from any amount of weekend rest.

Nearly six weeks have passed since we found Gracie and Clare. They have made a full recovery, and are ready to go to a new home. Please stop by to visit them, or check them out on Facebook where you will find pictures and videos.

*I get by with
a little help from
my friends...*

-John Lennon

Many Thanks to our Hardworking Volunteers for all the time, love, and tears they give for the cause.

And to the following businesses and individuals.

- **Antrim County Animal Shelter** for their continued support.
- **Antrim County Businesses** for their support of the Silent Auction and other events.
- **Antrim County Residents** for their outpour of support!
- All the **Antrim County Restaurants** that kindly donate chili for our cook-off every October.
- **Antrim County Review** for their help with PR.
- **Antrim County Veterinarians** and their caring staff for taking care of the animals.
- **Bellaire Chamber** for supporting the annual 5k Pet Run/Walk.
- Jack Bodis of **Creative Characters** in Central Lake for his help in the formatting and printing of this newsletter.
- **Carrie Dewey** for all the photos she takes of our adoptables.
- **GT Industires-Mancelona** for their volunteer hours.
- **The Hildorf Foundation** for their generosity.
- **Helena Township Hall** for sponsoring the Annual Chili Cook-Offs.
- Christian Randall DVM and Brandon Hajdo-Fernandez DVM and staff from **North Country Veterinary Services of Ellsworth** for all their dedicated work.
- **Village Markets** for support and donations of community cash.
- **Moka's of Bellaire** for creating the feral cat spay/neuter fund
- **Two Seven Oh Inc,** for the 2012-2013 heating grant.
- **Wags to Wiskers Pet Supplies** in Gaylord for their donations and support!
- **Mark Winn** for updating WaLHFMMF website.

Pets Mean a Lot! *By: Andie Dewey (4th grade)*

Pets are a big part of life. They help blind people, they are companions, and even heroes. Like St. Bernards. They help people stuck in avalanches. Or, think about cats, even. They can be heroes, even if they don't help someone. I know of stories about cats finding their way back to their families when they are miles and miles away.

There are many available cats at With a Little Help From My Friends. For example: Stella. She would be perfect in a single cat home with adults and very calm children. More kid friendly cats would be Merrie and Otis. But something you should never do to Merrie is put her in a box. She HATES it. Forcing her into a small space makes her feel threatened like animals that are being cornered. Bea, Annie and Will have all kitten in them. They are energetic and playful, so play with them often. Macie is a German Shepherd/Shar Pei mix, and she has two puppies named Megan and Margo. Both have been adopted, but Macie is still waiting. She is soft, just like Stella. She likes calm people, rather than wild. Rosco is another dog, and his family could not afford him anymore. His personality can be told in two words: gentle giant. He has one blue eye and one brown eye.

For a wider variety of animals, go to www.walhfmf.org or www.petfinder.com. On Facebook, you can LIKE With a Little Help From My Friends, and now you can subscribe on YouTube by searching walhfmf13 to see videos of the animals.

ADOPT-A-PET!



Stella is a year and a half, spayed, up to date on shots and tested negative for FIP, FeLV & FHW. She would love to be an only pet. Stella loves kids and would not mind a gentle dog.

Winter 2012 Donors of Fifty dollars +

Sally Adamson
Antrim Machine Products, Inc.
Carol and Tom Artusi
Richard Bailey
Barron Properties LTD Partnership
Butch and Liz Bartz
Michael and Gale Bigelow
Blue Pelican/Pelican Nest/Brothers Staff
Rudrick and Mary Ellen Boucher
Connie Brigham
Anna Rita Brown
Will and Trudy Brown
William and Eileen Burgess
David and Jeanette Carleton
Cyndi Caspo
Central Lake Pharmacy Staff
Michael and Susan Chesney

Chris and Merrie Corbett
Richard and Rosa Cude
Nancy DeWeese
Sophie Dewitt
Barbara Faas
Andy and Shannon Frey
Debbie and Steve Francis
Jennifer Frey
Susan Gates
Gary and Vicki Gilbert
Robert and Arlene Guthrie
Dave and Karin Harrison
Faith Hershiser
Grace Herta
Hildorff Foundation
Sam and Joann Holies
Bob and Jean Howard
Sharon McDiamid-Jeffers
Victoria and Wally Juall
Meredith Kadlec
Tom and Connie Kiessel
Matt Knudstrup
Jim and Heather Knust

Pat Koch, Stuff and Such
Ron and Elaine La Lone
L and M Industries, Inc
Michael and Sandra Lininger
Jade Lounsbery
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Walter and Virginia Owens
Josephine Paulshock
Harriet Pellow
Norm and Vicky Perkins
Ponemon Insitute
Helen Postma
Rainbow Realty
Laurie Ratiiff

Gilbert and Mary Richards
Nancy Richardson
Barry and Donna Rutter
Eugene Selden
Marianne Seidl
Eugene Sheldon
Shirley Snare
Roy Sprague
Kathleen Stafford
Pat Stephens
Dan and Tabby Stilson
John and Amy Talbot
Norma Wagner
Mary Morrison and Pam Walsh
Arlene Westhoven
Bruce and Dorothy Wierman
Sarah Williams
James and Marilyn Wilson
Lynda Wolf
Shirley Wolfe
Julie and Lee Wollgast
Maureen and Ron Yahrmatter
James and Mary Zambeck

Thank You For Your Continued Support! Please accept our sincere apology if your name was inadvertently omitted.

Remember when you have shopping to do –

igive.com

With a Little Help From My Friends receives a portion of the sales from this site. Please give it a try, it doesn't cost you and WaLHFMF gets a donation!

You'll also find a link to this site on

walhfmf.org

Also

For those in the Antrim County area...

If you save your receipts (including gas receipts) from the Elk Rapids, Rapid City and Central Lake Village Markets, mail them to With a Little Help From My Friends. A portion of their Community Cash program will be donated to WaLHFMF.

Did you know many credit card companies allow you to turn your reward points into gift cards!?

You can then donate these gift cards to your favorite charity!

"I am in favor of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of a whole human being"

—Abraham Lincoln



Please recycle, pass this newsletter on! ☺



**WITH
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HELP FROM
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3820 Ritt Road
Bellaire, Mi 49615



**IN MEMORY OF
MAX
1997 - 2009**

To contact us:
With a Little Help From My Friends
3820 Ritt Road
Bellaire, MI 49615
1-231-533-4070
walhfmf_4@hotmail.com
http://www.walhfmf.org

In Memory / In Honor Of BRICK PAVER FUNDRAISER

\$50 ea – 4 x 8 Brick (up to 3 lines of copy)

\$100 ea – 8 x 8 Brick (up to 6 lines of copy)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please make checks payable to: **With a Little Help From My Friends**

No. of Bricks

No. of Bricks

For a full size order form, visit us at www.walhfmf.org

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Baby Squirrels

If tree work was recently done and the nest or baby fell down as a result, give the mother squirrel a chance to reclaim her young.

If the baby is uninjured, leave him where he is, then leave the area and keep people and pets away. Monitor from a safe distance.

If the baby is not retrieved by sundown, contact a local wildlife rehabilitator. If it's chilly outside, or the baby isn't fully furred, place him in a shallow box with something warm underneath (like a heating pad on a low setting or a hot water bottle) so he doesn't get cold and compromised while waiting for his mother to return. Do not cover the squirrel with leaves or blankets, as the mother may not be able to find him.

Note: A squirrel who is nearly full sized, has a full and fluffy tail and is able to run, jump, and climb is independent.

Finding Help

If a wild animal exhibits any of the above signs, you should immediately call one of the following local resources for assistance. You will find listings for most of these in your telephone directory, or try an online search (i.e., "Los Angeles animal shelter").

Wildlife rehabilitator: Visit Wildlife International or the Wildlife Rehabilitators Information Directory where you can type in your location and get a list of rehabilitators near you. Your local animal control agency or state wildlife agency should also have contact information for wildlife rehabilitators in your area.

Local animal shelter or humane society

Animal control agency

State wildlife agency

Nature center

Exotic animals veterinarian

Capture and Transport

Once you've contacted the right person, describe the animal and his physical condition as accurately as possible. Unless directed otherwise, here's how you can make an animal more comfortable for transport or while you're waiting for help to arrive:

Punch holes, from the inside out, into a cardboard box or other container. A paper bag may be suitable for most songbirds.

Line the box with an old T-shirt or other soft cloth.

Put on gloves.

Use a towel or pillowcase to cover the animal, then scoop him up gently and place him in the container.

Do not give the animal food or water. He could choke, develop digestive problems, or drown. Many injured animals are in shock, and eating or drinking can make it worse.

Place the container in a warm, dark, quiet place—away from pets, children, and noise—until you can transport the animal.

Transport the animal as soon as possible. While in the car, keep the carrier out of the sun and away from direct air conditioning or heat. Keep the car radio off and talking to a minimum.

Never handle an adult animal without first consulting with a wildlife professional. Even small animals can injure you.

*Information supplied by the
Humane Society of The United States 2008*

*Photos courtesy of Mona Minish
With a Little Help From My Friends*



Special Pull-Out Reference Guide



What do you do when you find injured or orphaned wildlife?

Many wild animals are born during the spring and summer months. In your own backyard, you may come across baby birds, rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, deer, and other young wildlife as they make their way into the world.

For many people, the pleasure of seeing these young creatures is mixed with a sense of protectiveness—of wanting to help them survive. But spotting a baby animal by himself doesn't necessarily mean he's an orphan. Many wildlife parents leave their young alone during the day, sometimes for long periods. The mother is usually nearby and quite conscious of her young. Also, keep in mind that despite their small size, many young animals are actually independent enough to fend for themselves.

Questions? Email us at: walhfmf_4@hotmail.com

Courtesy of With a Little Help From My Friends, Inc.
Pet Crisis Center
3820 Ritt Road · Bellaire, MI 49615 · (231) 533-4070
walhfmf.org

How To Tell if an Animal Needs Your Help or Should be Left Alone

Here are some general signs to look for:

- a wild animal presented to you by a cat or dog
- bleeding
- an apparent or obvious broken limb
- a featherless or nearly featherless bird (nestling) on the ground
- shivering
- evidence of a dead parent nearby

Is the Animal Really an Orphan?

Many young animals may appear to be orphaned, but actually may be doing just fine on their own. Determining whether or not an animal is an orphan depends on the animal's age and species, and how you may perceive their natural behaviors. Here's more information on the young of species you may encounter, to help you decide whether or not they need to be rescued.

Baby Deer

People often mistakenly assume that a baby deer, called a fawn, is orphaned if found alone. Rest assured that the mother deer, the doe, is probably nearby. The doe will only visit and nurse her fawn a few times a day to avoid attracting predators. Unless you know the mother is dead, leave the fawn alone.

Mother deer are wary of human smells; if you have already handled the fawn, take a towel, rub it in the grass, and then wipe down the fawn to remove all human scent. Then return the fawn to the place where you found him.

If the fawn is lying on his side, or wandering and crying incessantly, he may be orphaned. If this is the case, [call a wildlife rehabilitator](#) in your area. But remember: a fawn found alone and quiet is okay.

Baby Birds

It's a myth that birds abandon their young if a person touches them. Unlike other animals, birds are *not* sensitive to the human scent.

If baby birds have fallen from their nest, you can put them back if safe to do so.

If the original nest was destroyed or is too high to reach, hang a small basket close to where the original nest was. Woven stick baskets work well for this purpose—they resemble natural nests and allow rain to pass through so the birds won't drown. If you don't already have one around the house, baskets can be inexpensively purchased at garden or craft supply stores. Make sure the basket isn't too deep, since adult birds won't jump into anything they can't see out of.

Move away from the area, but keep watch for an hour to make sure the parent birds return to the new nest to feed their chicks. If they don't return, [contact a local resource](#) in your area.

Birds that are fully feathered on their bodies but with short tail feathers may be fledglings (adolescent birds). You may see them hopping about on the ground, but unable to fly. This is normal: birds learn to fly from the ground up!

Often the young leave the nest several days before they are able to fly. The fledglings may remain on the ground for a few days, supervised and fed by their parents before they get the hang of flying. Keep a lookout for parent birds, who will feed their fledglings a few times per hour.

Be sure to keep pets away from the area—dogs should be leashed and [cats kept indoors](#). If there are stray pets in the area, put the fledglings in a small basket and hang it securely from a nearby tree limb. Hopefully, this will keep the birds off the ground for the few extra days they need before they can fly. However, if the birds appears injured, alone, or in imminent danger, [contact a wildlife rehabilitator](#) near you.

Baby Foxes

Often fox kits will appear unsupervised for long periods of time while their parents are out hunting for food. Observe the kits from a distance; if they seem energetic and healthy, just leave them alone. Only contact a wildlife rehabilitator if the kits appear sickly or weak, or if you have reason to believe both parents are dead.

Baby Opossums

Baby opossums are born as embryos, barely larger than a bee. They crawl up to their mother's pouch where they spend about two months attached to one of her nipples. When baby opossums get to be about 3-4 inches long, they ride around on their mother's back—and if they fall off, she may not notice the babies are missing. As a general rule, if the opossum is less than 7 inches long (not including the tail), he is an orphan. Over 7 inches long, he's old enough to be on his own.

Baby Rabbits

If you find a nest of baby rabbits and the nest is intact and the babies uninjured, leave them alone. Mother rabbits only visit their young 2-3 times a day to avoid attracting predators.

If the rabbit nest has been disturbed, or if you think the babies are [orphaned](#), recover the nest with surrounding natural materials such as grass and leaves.

Put an "X" of sticks or yarn over the nest to assess if the mother is returning to nurse her young.

If the "X" is moved but the nest is still covered by the next day, the mother has returned to nurse the babies.

If the "X" remains undisturbed for 24 hours, [contact a wildlife rehabilitator](#) near you.

Keep all pets out of the area, as they will surely find and kill the young rabbits. Also, try not to touch the babies, as mother rabbits are very sensitive to foreign smells and

may abandon their young. A rabbit who is four inches long with open eyes and erect ears is independent from his mother and able to fend for himself.

Baby Raccoons

If the baby raccoon has been seen alone for more than a few hours, he's probably been orphaned. Mother raccoons closely supervise their young and don't let them out of their sight. You can put an upside-down laundry basket over the baby (with a weight on top) and monitor him for a few hours. If the mother does not return, [contact a local wildlife rehabilitator](#).

Baby Skunks

If you see a baby skunk running around a yard or neighborhood all alone, there's a chance he is orphaned. You may even see a line of baby skunks, nose to tail, running around by themselves—it's likely they've become separated from their mother.

Skunks have poor eyesight, so if something scares a mother skunk and she runs off, her babies can quickly lose sight of her.

In these circumstances, we recommend monitoring the situation for an hour or two to see if the mother appears. You can also put on gloves and slowly place a plastic laundry basket upside down over the skunks to keep them in one spot and make it easier for the mother to find them.

Be aware that skunks spray to protect themselves from quickly moving threats such as dogs—if you move slowly and speak softly, it's unlikely that you will be sprayed. If alarmed, skunks give a warning by stamping their front feet. So, if a skunk doesn't stamp, she's probably not concerned, and you may proceed. If no mother appears to retrieve her young, contact a wildlife rehabilitator.