INJURED BIRD OR ANIMAL?

Who to call • where to take it • what to do right now

FIRST: Protect the animal and yourself

Keep children and pets away. Do not feed or give water. Do not handle hawks, owls, eagles, bats, skunks or raccoons. Call before moving any wild animal.

Who to call

WHO TO CALL	PHONE	WHEN TO CALL
Brendon McCampbell Western Plains Animal Refuge	**785-259-3675**	Help and advice for wild or domestic animals. Call before transporting an animal.
Saline County Game Warden	**785-452-0478**	Best first call for an injured or truly orphaned wild bird or wild animal in Saline County.
Kansas Wildlife & Parks	**620-672-5911**	Weekdays, 8:00 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Ask which licensed rehabilitator may accept the species from Saline County.
Salina Animal Services	**785-826-6535**	Injured, lost or abandoned domestic dogs and cats. 329 N. 2nd St., Salina. Call before arrival.
After-hours animal emergency	**785-826-7210**	Dangerous, badly injured or traffic-threatening domestic animal after normal hours.

Important: Salina Animal Services currently does not accept wildlife. Milford Nature Center also does not accept wildlife as a public walk-in rehabilitation service.

Where wildlife may be taken - only after calling

POSSIBLE RECEIVING FACILITY	PHONE / ADDRESS	STATE PERMIT LISTS
Hutchinson Zoo Wildlife Rehabilitation	620-694-2672 6 Emerson Loop, Hutchinson	Native mammals, migratory birds, birds of prey, reptiles and amphibians. County limits apply.
Great Bend Zoo & Raptor Center	620-793-4226 2123 Main St., Great Bend	Owls, falcons, vultures, hawks and eagles. County limits apply.
Pat Silovsky - Milford	785-223-2273 7130 Rockwood, Milford	Native mammals and reptiles; no federal migratory-bird permit is shown on the 2026 state list.
Project Wildlife - Hays	816-529-1697 1625 W. 27th St., Hays	Mammals, songbirds, raptors and reptiles. County limits apply.

CALL FIRST - NEVER JUST SHOW UP

Kansas rehabilitators may accept only the species and counties listed on their permits. The 2026 state list does not name Saline County under a receiving rehabilitator, so ask the game warden or Kansas Wildlife & Parks where the animal should go.

BABY BIRD: HELP OR LEAVE IT ALONE?

Most baby birds found on the ground are not abandoned.

1. Is it injured or was it caught by a cat?

- **YES** - bleeding, broken wing or leg, shivering, unable to stand, covered with flies, or caught by a cat or dog: call a licensed rehabilitator or the game warden now. A cat-caught bird needs help even if no wound is visible.

2. Is it fully feathered and hopping or fluttering?

- **YES** - it is probably a fledgling learning to fly. Leave it nearby. If it is in immediate danger, move it only a few feet into a shrub or shaded protected spot. Keep cats, dogs and people away; the parents are usually close and will continue feeding it.

3. Is it nearly bare, lightly feathered or eyes closed?

- Return the nestling to its nest if you can do so safely. Human scent will not cause the parents to reject it.
- If the nest is gone, secure a small berry basket or tub with drainage holes and dry paper towel in the same tree or very nearby, shaded from sun and rain.
- Move away and watch from a distance. If no parent returns or the bird weakens, call the game warden or a licensed bird rehabilitator.

DO NOT TRY TO RAISE OR FEED A BABY BIRD

Bread, milk, seed, worms and water placed in the beak can injure or kill a baby bird. Most wild birds are legally protected and may be kept only by permitted rehabilitators.

If a professional tells you to transport it

1. **Prepare a box.** Use a small cardboard box with air holes, lined with a smooth towel or paper towels. Do not use a wire cage.
2. **Contain gently.** Wear gloves. Cover a small bird with a light towel, scoop it up and put it in the box. Handle as little as possible.
3. **Keep it dark, quiet and warm.** Close the box and keep it away from children, pets, noise and direct sun. Use warmth only if advised.
4. **Give no food or water.** Unless the rehabilitator gives exact instructions, put nothing in the bird's mouth and no dish in the box.
5. **Go directly.** Take the animal only to the place that agreed to receive it. Wash your hands and clean the container afterward.

Situations that need special caution

- Hawks, owls, eagles, herons and other large birds: talons and beaks can cause serious injury. Do not handle; call the game warden or a raptor rehabilitator.
- Bats, skunks, raccoons or any mammal acting strangely: possible rabies risk. Keep people and pets away and call Animal Services or the game warden.
- Several sick or dead birds in one area, especially waterfowl or raptors: do not touch them. Report the location to Kansas Wildlife & Parks because of possible avian influenza.
- Window strike: keep pets indoors and allow quiet recovery. If necessary, place the bird briefly in a loosely closed paper bag or ventilated box. Release it when alert; call if it does not recover.

Sources checked September 4, 2026: Kansas Wildlife & Parks 2026 permit list; City of Salina Animal Services; Western Plains Animal Refuge; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Great Plains Nature Center.