

**There has been a rash of wild jackrabbits injured by bow and arrows. It is illegal to hunt (discharge any kind of firearm) within the city limits. This includes bows and arrows. We are posting recommendations from the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society at [www.calgarywildlife.org](http://www.calgarywildlife.org).**

### **Is it injured?**

Wild animals might seem hurt if they are not moving. However, this behavior may simply be a natural survival tactic to keep predators away. Keep an eye out for other indicators that an animal is actually injured, such as:

- Obvious wounds, swelling or bleeding
- Limping
- Dangling limb or wing
- Problems standing or inability to stand
- Trouble holding the head erect
- Difficulty with breathing
- Lethargy
- Inability to see or react to stimuli
- Emaciated
- Uneven loss of fur or feathers
- Signs of neurological trauma: seizures, walking in circles
- Typically nocturnal animal is active during the daytime

## **2. Call for Help**

When you have determined that a wild animal is truly orphaned or injured, it will need your help. Contact the CWRS (403 239-2488) or the City of Calgary 3-1-1 service for advice on how to proceed.

We will send a trained rescue volunteer whenever necessary. Alternatively, you may bring the wild animal to a veterinary clinic near you. Click here for a list of clinics accepting wildlife on behalf of the CWRS. These clinics ensure initial treatment of wildlife and provide the public with several drop-off sites around the city on a 24-hour basis.

### **3. While Waiting for Help to Arrive**

In some cases, you may need to carefully secure the animal and keep it safe while waiting for medical care to increase its chance of survival.

- Keep yourself safe. Injured animals are frightened and may think you are a predator. Use extreme care and caution when approaching any wild animal. If you must handle a wild animal, use protective gear such as eyewear and gloves.
- Keep the patient warm. Gently wrap the animal in a coat, blanket or towel. A cardboard box makes a great holding and carrying case and offers the animal a sense of security.
- Keep the patient calm. Once the wildlife is secured, it is important to keep them calm. Speak quietly, avoid loud sounds and sudden movements and keep them out of bright light.
- If you are not comfortable handling the wild animal, wait for a trained CWRS volunteer. Some animals such as large mammals and birds of prey should only be handled by trained wildlife technicians.

#### **Handling wild animals**

It is illegal to care for sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife in Calgary unless you are a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. To ensure the safety and health of people and wildlife, members of the public should generally avoid handling wildlife. Wild animals can inflict serious injury and can be carriers of disease and parasites that are transmittable to humans and domestic animals.

You should not attempt to assist an injured or orphaned animal if there is a risk to personal safety or to the safety of others. If you find an orphaned or injured wild animal, call the CWRS.

If the animal poses a threat to public health or safety, call the local animal control office or police department for assistance.

<http://calgarywildlife.org/wildlife-information/finding-wildlife>

## **Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society**

**Wildlife Hotline: 403-239-2488**

**Mailing Address:**

**11555 - 85 Street NW  
Calgary, AB T3R 1J3**

**Admin: 403-266-2282**

**Fax: 403-266-2449**

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**www.calgarywildlife.org**

**Contact Wildlife Hotline for site location**