

# INJURED OWLS

## What to do

*You found an injured owl or other raptor and you desperately want to help. Do you know what to do?*

## Who to call

*Injured raptors need professional care; at-home care is never a good idea. Do you know who to call?*

## Where to go

*There are several trained, licensed raptor rehabilitators across the state. Do you know how to find them?*

## How to help

*Raptor rehabilitation takes a lot of time, effort, money and volunteers to stay open. How can you help?*

## SAFELY HELPING INJURED OWLS

We all mean well. We find an injured owl and we instinctively want to help. Unfortunately our actions, although filled with good intentions, often end up killing or permanently injuring the owl. So how do we help?

This booklet will help you learn what to do, who to call, and how you can help.



### PLEASE NOTE

*Possessing a wild animal without the proper permit is a criminal offense punishable with fines and incarceration. Never keep a raptor or other bird or wild animal as a pet or as a patient even if you believe you are helping it.*

# SECURE THE OWL

**The first step is to secure the owl.**



You'd be surprised at the speed at which an injured owl can disappear!

When an owl is injured, its natural instinct is to hide.

If you discover an owl that is clearly injured, cover it right away with a laundry basket or box that is large enough to fit comfortably over the owl, but not so large that the owl can flap around too much inside. Owls are surprisingly strong, so place a weight on top to keep the owl from escaping.



# CALL FOR HELP

The second step is to call for help.



As soon as the owl is secured, call for help immediately.

Ideally, you should call your local licensed raptor rehabilitator. The phone numbers are at the back of this book. If you do not have the number handy, call your veterinarian, emergency veterinary clinic, DNR or your local law enforcement who should be able to connect you with the nearest raptor rehabilitation center.



# ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS

## Notes



Never give food or water to the bird.

Take note of the exact location the owl was found so that it can be returned to the wild in its own territory.



If you are going to transport the owl to the rehabber yourself, use heavy gloves when handling the bird and, to reduce stress, cover the owl with a sheet or blanket and place it securely in a box.



## “Lost” or “Orphaned” Owlets



What should you do if you find an owlet (owl chick) on the ground?

It is easy to assume that the owlet is orphaned. However, it is much more likely that the owlet is testing its wings.

The chicks of many types of birds, including owls, will leave the nest and roost on a nearby branch before they can fly. Some lose their footing and fall to the ground.

The grounded chick may look lost or orphaned, but it probably is not. If the chick is obviously injured or orphaned, take the chick to the nearest licensed rehabilitator immediately.

If the chick is not injured, it is best to leave it alone. If there are predators, people or vehicles nearby, put the chick in the branches of the nearest tree and leave the area. Contrary to popular belief, the parents will not abandon the chick if it is handled by humans.

# What happens next?

Once the owl has been safely delivered to the raptor rehabilitation center, there will be a variety of tests, evaluations and procedures depending on the condition of the owl.

In the following pages, we'll discuss the initial exam, the steps required to prepare for surgery, surgical steps to repair a fractured wing bone (since broken wings are the most common injury), and the steps required after surgery to help the owl recover and be prepared for life in the wild again.



X-RAY OF BROKEN WING



INTUBATING



BANDAGED WING

# Initial Exam

There are several steps required when faced with an injured owl. First, the bird is given a physical exam and weighed. Depending on the owl's size and condition, it may have to be wrapped loosely in a cloth or have a hood placed on its head to calm it down before it can be examined. A blood sample is taken, and an eye exam is given since many birds have head injuries from collisions. The most common injury to owls is broken or injured wings, so the owl may also need an x-ray.

Given the frequency of fractures, the focus of this booklet is on repairing broken wings and rehabilitating owls.



X-RAY OF AN OWL



X-RAY OF BROKEN WING



CLOSE-UP OF THE BREAK

# Prepping for Surgery

Since owls are easily stressed and can harm themselves, they are usually placed under general anesthesia while they are being treated. A gas such as isoflurane is mixed with oxygen and administered using a mask placed over the owl's face. A tube is inserted into the owl's trachea (windpipe) to ensure proper air flow. This process is called "intubation". The area around the injury is sanitized. The breathing and heart rates are monitored very closely throughout the procedure. There is a risk of apnea (breathing has stopped suddenly) or cardiac arrest (heart has stopped beating), but it is rare.



MASKING



INTUBATING



PREPPING THE AREA

# Surgery

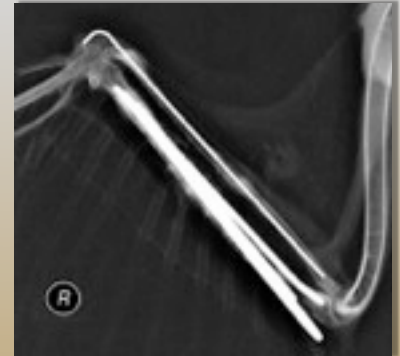
Wing fractures are the most common injury. The owl's broken bone must be set immediately by a veterinarian. Otherwise, the wing may not heal properly and the owl will not be able to fly correctly. Since owls must fly well in order to catch their prey, it is crucial for the owl to receive prompt professional care in order to survive. Some fractures require surgery and insertion of a pin or plate, while others can be stabilized with a bandage, splint, or cast. Bones are set for two to six weeks depending on the seriousness of the injury. Owls are fed a high calcium diet while they heal.



PREPARING TO PIN THE WING



INSERTING THE PIN



X-RAY OF PINNED WING



# Post-Surgery

After the bones are set, the owl is moved to a small cage in a quiet place to keep it calm. Owls that are unable to eat may be fed liquid diets or force fed. The bandages are removed as needed and the wing is stretched to prevent stiffness. Antibiotics are given to prevent infection. After the bones are set, the owl participates in exercise routines for two weeks to several months in order to prepare him or her for life in the wild again. Once the bird is healthy - feather growth, good weight, normal behavior - the owl is released if it is the right season for the owl to be in the area.



WAKING UP FROM SURGERY



BANDAGED WING



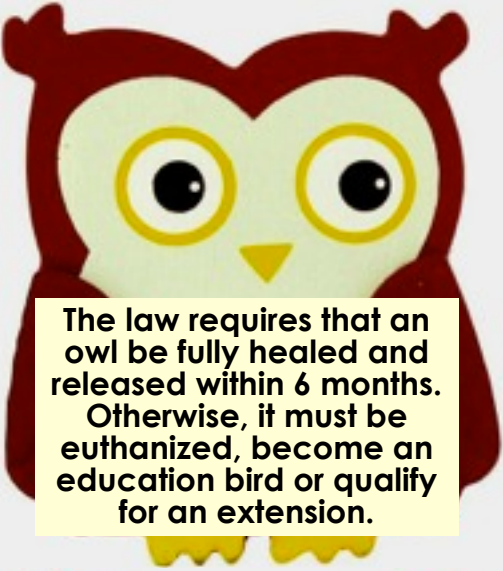
RETURNED TO THE WILD

## WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?


Just one pair of barn owls disposes of 600 mice per year. Each mouse causes about \$25.00 in crop damage annually. That one pair of owls can therefore save a large farm \$15,000.00 per year. Sadly, thousands of owls are injured by cars, guns, traps and poisons. If owls are not saved, farmers and consumers will face increased costs due to crop damage and spread of disease caused by rodents.



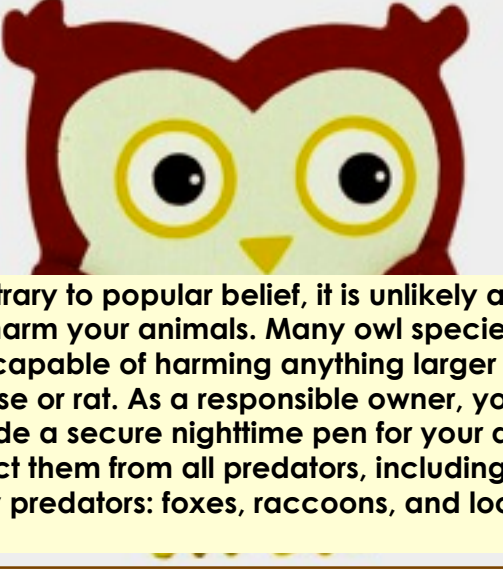
# NOTES




The law requires that an owl be fully healed and released within 6 months. Otherwise, it must be euthanized, become an education bird or qualify for an extension.



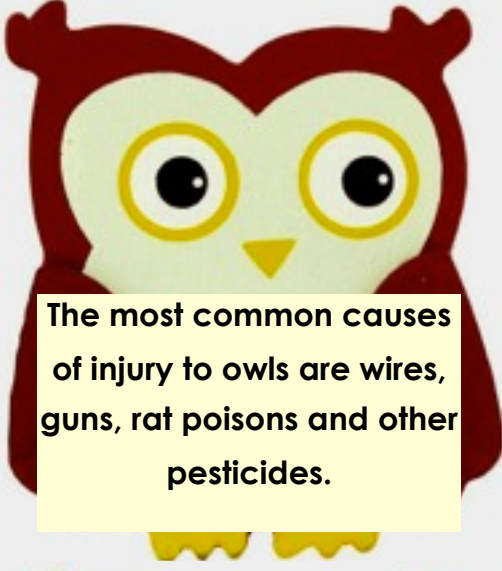
Owls that cannot be released may become education birds, but only if there are sufficient funds, space, demand, and volunteers.



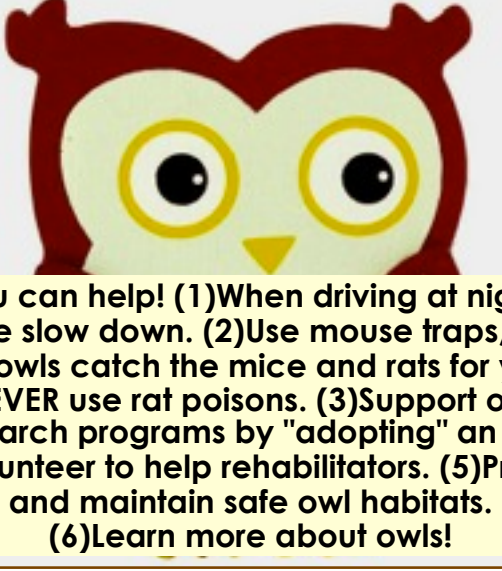
Contrary to popular belief, it is unlikely an owl will harm your animals. Many owl species are incapable of harming anything larger than a mouse or rat. As a responsible owner, you should provide a secure nighttime pen for your animals to protect them from all predators, including the more likely predators: foxes, raccoons, and loose dogs.



Sadly, approximately 50% of the injured owls cannot be rehabilitated and must be euthanized.



The most common causes of injury to owls are wires, guns, rat poisons and other pesticides.



You can help! (1)When driving at night, please slow down. (2)Use mouse traps, or let the owls catch the mice and rats for you; NEVER use rat poisons. (3)Support owl research programs by "adopting" an owl. (4)Volunteer to help rehabilitators. (5)Provide and maintain safe owl habitats. (6)Learn more about owls!

# The Wildlife Rehabilitation Information Directory



2012 Indiana Wild Animal Rehabilitators - as of September 1, 2012					
County	FirstandLast	MailingAddress	CityStateZip	Animals	Telephone
Allen	Patricia Funnell	13005 Hardisty Road	Fort Wayne, IN 46845	Small mammals,snakes,turtles,birds	260-627-5811
Allen	Jeanie Seel	207 W. Hamilton Road, North	Fort Wayne, IN 46814	Mammals,reptiles,amphibians, birds	260-625-3829
Bartholomew	Kathleen Hershey	18300 East 200 North	Hope, IN 47246	Mammals, turtles, snakes, birds	812-546-6318
Bartholomew	James Mahoney	5851 W. Ohio Ridge Road	Columbus, IN 47201	Small mammals, deer, birds	812-526-6480
Blackford	Judi Crouch	4593 East 500 South	Hartford City, IN 47344	mammals, reptiles, amphibians	765-768-9972
Boone	Holly Carter	625 Lakeview Drive	Zionsville, IN 46077	mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds	317-873-6561
Boone	Colleen Cox	6882 West 800 South	Jamestown, IN 46147	Small mammals	765-676-9271
Brown	Laura Edmunds	1376 Jackson Branch Ridge Rd.	Nashville, IN 47448	Birds	812-988-8990
Brown	Patricia Reynolds	1376 Jackson Branch Ridge Rd.	Nashville, IN 47448	Birds	812-988-8990
Carroll	Anita Bailey	6763 West 500 South	Delphi, IN 46923	Small mammals, deer	765-543-2499
Carroll	Kendra Bailey	8409 W 500 S	Delphi IN 46923	mammals, deer	765-418-0104
Carroll	Elizabeth Fletcher	404 W. Front Street	Delphi, IN 46923	Small mammals	765-564-6419
Carroll	Brenda Kallner	5464 South 500 West	Rossville, IN 46065	Small mammals, deer	765-379-3729
Cass	Tony Calloway	7454 W 325 N	Royal Center IN 46973	Deer	574-643-9964
Clark	Sandra McCombs	2001 Brown Road	Charlestown, IN 47111	Small mammals only	
Clark	Timothy Stark	3320 Jack Teeple Road	Charlestown, IN 47111	Mammals, deer, reptiles, birds	812-256-3894
Clinton	Susie Kemp	2182 West 800 North	Rossville, IN 46065	Small mammals, deer (fawns)	765-379-3250
Clinton	Deborah Reames	1059 W. Barner Street	Frankfort, IN 46041	Squirrels	765-659-3536
Decatur	John Dwiggins, Jr.	10446 South CR 350 West	Westport, IN 47283	Mammals, reptiles, birds	812-614-0039
Delaware	Diana Shaffer	11100 West SR 32	Yorktown, IN 47396	Birds	765-759-9112
Elkhart	Dennis Badke	18271 CR 2	Bristol, IN 46507	Mammals, turtles, snakes, amphibs	574-848-7199
Elkhart	Patricia Holdread	217 S. Tenth Street	Goshen, IN 46528	Small mammals	574-215-6887
Elkhart	Frances Novak-Roberts	29829 CR 10	Elkhart, IN 46514	Small mammals	574-849-6835
Floyd	Rose Hensel	7030 Corydon Ridge Road	Lanesville, IN 47136	Birds	812-949-8618
Fountain	Carla Frazier	3010 E. Lutheran Church Road	Hillsboro, IN 47949	mammals	765-397-8519
Fulton	Shirley Needham	3219 N. Old US 31, PO Box 401	Rochester, IN 46975	Birds	574-223-3801
Hamilton	Elizabeth Hatton	2525 SR 38 East	Westfield, IN 46074	Birds	317-877-1187
Hamilton	Kristen Heitman	2425 202nd Street East	Westfield, IN 46074-9300	Birds, waterfowl, mammals, deer	317-902-DUCK
Hamilton	Michelle Manker	6629 Wilderness Trail	Fishers, IN 46038	Mammals, deer, reptiles, birds	317-585-9036
Hamilton	Anita Reveal	7002 East 266	Arcadia, IN 46030	Small mammals, deer	317-984-4531
Hancock	Marty LaPrees	7064 W. Timber Drive	New Palestine, IN 46163	Turtles ONLY	317-861-8884
Harrison	Harold Chancey	3935 Hooptown Road, SE	Laconia, IN 47135	Deer	812-737-2412
Huntington	Robyn Groves	2965 East 1100 South	Warren, IN 46792	Small mammals	260-375-2984

Huntington	Kenneth Groves	2965 East 1100 South	Warren, IN 46792	Small mammals	260-375-2984
Jackson	Donna Stanley	11195 East 500 North	Seymour, IN 47274	Birds	812-523-3414
Jasper	Annie Ibarra	3861 East 500 North	Wheatfield, IN 46392	Mammals, turtles, snakes	219-843-0347
Jay	Kathy Fields	2209 East 100 South	Portland, IN 47371	Small mammals, deer, birds	260-726-4365
Jay	Johnna Smith	3039 North 1100 West	Pennville, IN 47389	mammals	260-731-5953
Knox	Robert Lange	1819 S. Main Street Road	Vincennes, IN 47591	Small mammals, amphibians, birds	812-886-4831
Kosciusko	Launda Ewell	6027 South 550 East	Piercetown, IN 46562	Small mammals, deer	260-839-0705
LaPorte	James Fox	6492 W. Bleck Road	LaPorte, IN 46350	coyotes and foxes ONLY	219-201-6088
LaPorte	Diane Kuhl	7393 Tulip Lane	New Carlisle, IN 4655	Birds only	574-220-4042
Madison	Leanne Roberts Boyce	2720 Central Avenue	Anderson, IN 46016	raccoons only	765-278-1519
Madison	Christina Freeman	4474 South 100 East	Anderson, IN 46013	mammals, reptiles	765-602-3313
Marion	Joel Vanderbush	5340 Julian Ave.	Indianapolis, IN 4621	small mammals	317-695-5461
Marshall	Patricia E Knight	304 Water Street	Plymouth, IN 46563	Songbirds ONLY	574-936-5140
Miami	Ellen Digue	6431 N. Main Street	Denver, IN 46926	raccoon	765-985-2947
Miami	Kelly Steg	4526 S. 100 W.	Peru, IN 46970	mammals	765-863-0484
Monroe	Judith Beckner	198 N Hartstrait Rd	Bloomington IN 4740	Mammals	812-323-1313
Monroe	Ginger Christle	WildCare, 198 Hartstrait Rd	Bloomington, IN 4740	Rabbits, squirrel	812-323-1313
Monroe	Jennifer Cunningham	WildCare, 198 N. Hartstrait Rd.	Bloomfield, IN 47408	Small Mammals, Deer, Turtles	812-323-1313
Monroe	Jacqueline Payne-Harve	198 Hartstrait Rd.	Bloomington, IN 4740	mammals	812-323-1313
Monroe	Kandy Schwandt	614 W. 8th Street	Bloomington, IN 4740	Small mammals	812-323-1313
Monroe	Sabrina Taylor	198 N Hartstraight Rd	Bloomington IN 4740	mammals, reptiles, amphibians, bird	812-323-1313
Monroe	Jan Turner	5735 E. Robinson Road	Bloomington, IN 4740	All mammals	812-339-8588
Monroe	Bonnie Vargas	198 N Hartstrait Rd	Bloomington, IN 4740	Birds	812-323-1313
Monroe	Amanda Wrigley	198 Hartstrait Rd.	Bloomington, IN 4740	mammals, snakes, amphibs, songb	812-323-1313
Montgomery	Paige Hash	5850 West SR 32	Crawfordsville, IN 479	Small mammals	812-593-2972
Montgomery	MeiLinda Poole	8021 West 300 South	Waynetown, IN 4799	deer, bobcat, fox, squirrel	765-866-7112
Montgomery	Noel Richardson	4582 W. Crown Street	Crawfordsville, IN 479	mammals	765-435-2573
Morgan	Steven Finney	8665 W. Wheeler Road	Monrovia, IN 46157	Small mammals	317-996-2636
Morgan	Anna Lawrence	5224 E Jensen Rd	Martinsville IN 46151	Mammals, birds	765-346-0278
Morgan	R. Jill Smith	3962 N. Cardinal Crest	Martinsville, IN 46151	Mammals,deer,turtles,birds,amphib	765-342-7429
Newton	Deb Smart	208 N. 5th Street	Kentland, IN 47951	Small mammals	219-474-6182
Noble	Maria Waltz	2977 South 1200 West -57	Piercetown, IN 46562	Birds	574-265-9493
Ohio	Paul Strasser	PO Box 202, 3027 SR 262	Rising Sun, IN 47040	mammals, birds	812-438-2306
Ohio	Debbie Workman	3526 Nelson Road	Rising Sun, IN 47040	Mammals,	812-438-4336
Owen	Crystal Anderson	6180 W. St. Hwy. 46	Poland, IN 47868	mammals	812-323-1313

Porter	Shellie Barron	466 West 100 South	Valparaiso, IN 46385	mammals, birds	219-462-3984
Porter	Carole Dartz, DVM	244 W. US Highway 6	Valparaiso, IN 46385	does not pickup; NO RACCOONS;	219-762-7267
Porter	Russell Harper	463 East 1400 North	Chesterton, IN 46304	small mammals, birds	219-926-2590
Porter	Rachael Jones	1259 Sturdy Road	Valparaiso, IN 46383	Mammals, snakes, turtles, birds	219-462-4114
Porter	Lawrence McAfee, DVM	651 Eastport Centre Drive	Valparaiso, IN 46383	Small mammals, deer, birds	DO NOT CALL
Porter	Molly Payne	1490 N. Fumleigh Lane	Chesterton, IN 46304	Small mammals	219-926-4569
Porter	Kristen Pisarek-Jones	729 W. 100 N.	Valparaiso, IN 46385	Mammals	219-204-0892
Porter	Larry Reed	55 East US Highway 20	Porter, IN 46304-139	Mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibian	219-926-1194
Porter	Nora Reyna	2651 Scott Street	Portage, IN 46368	Small mammals	219-763-0848
Pulaski	Kimberly Hoover	5046 South 400 East	Star City, IN 46985	Deer, small mammals, turtles, amphibians	574-595-7806
Putnam	Kathrine Dorsett	413 Shadowlawn Avenue	Greencastle, IN 4613	Small mammals	765-653-6015
Scott	Terry Davis	6002 N. Whitsitt Road	Scottsburg, IN 47170	Mammals, deer, reptiles, birds	812-794-3800
Shelby	Julie Bielefeld	8334 North 25 West	Fountaintown, IN 461	deer	317-402-5160
St. Joseph	Charlene Burroughs	2506 Grape Road	Mishwaka IN 46545	mammals, snakes	574-255-4726
St. Joseph	Heather Downey	55788 Redtail Court	South Bend, IN 46619	Turtles	574-233-4601
St. Joseph	Carole Riewe	55503 Pine Road	South Bend, IN 46619	Birds	574-288-5549
St. Joseph	Cynthia Sellers	20300 Whitmer Road	South Bend, IN 46614	Small mammals	574-291-7331
Steuben	Jody Hill	6500 South SR 1	Hamilton, IN 46742	mammals, reptiles, birds, deer	260-488-2844
Tippecanoe	Susan Alkire	1441 South 650 East	Lafayette, IN 47905	Small mammals	765-427-9352
Tippecanoe	Carol Blacketer	5508 Eisenhower Road	Lafayette IN 47905	Mammals, turtles, snakes, lizards, birds	765-430-1598
Tippecanoe	Susan Cahee	70 Cavalry Ct	W Lafayette IN 4790	mammals	765-543-9885
Tippecanoe	Denise Hays	2030 East 600 North	West Lafayette, IN 47	Small mammals	765-430-1582
Tippecanoe	Jean Jacob	141 Linda Lane	West Lafayette, IN 47	Mammals, snakes, turtles, birds, amphibians	765-463-7911
Tippecanoe	Elva James	1208 Voyager Way	Lafayette, IN 47909	Small mammals	765-491-2787
Tippecanoe	Kimberly McMunn	638 Harrison Circle, PO Box 53	Dayton, IN 47941	Small mammals, reptiles, amphibians	765-532-6889
Tippecanoe	Sheri Meade	725 Kent Avenue	West Lafayette, IN 47	Rabbits, squirrel, raccoon, opossum	765-463-5724
Vanderburgh	Christine Bush	3204 Stratford Road	Evansville, IN 47710	Mammals, turtles, fawns	812-306-6500
Wabash	Sharon	5620 East 250 South	Lagro, IN 46941	Small mammals, deer	260-782-2593
Wabash	Linda Wilson	6412 West 100 South	Wabash, IN 46992	fawns, small mammals	260-563-3482
Warren	Sharon Cummings	4047 North 900 East	Attica, IN 47918-7905	mammals, birds	765-762-3022
Warrick	Billie J. Fletcher	2244 Ritzert Road	Boonville, IN 47601	deer, rabbit, bobcat, box turtle	DO NOT CALL
Warrick	Teena McDaniel	7633 Lerch Road	Newburgh, IN 47630	Small mammals, deer	812-853-3867
Wayne	Joyce Luckett	3270 Waverly Drive	Richmond, IN 47374	Small mammals	765-977-6736
Wayne	Anthony Smith	11 E. Front Street	Cambridge City, IN 4	Small mammals, deer	765-478-5325