“I’m truly sorry man’s dominion has broken nature’s social union, an’ justifies that ill opinion which makes thee startle at me, thy poor earth-born companion, an’ fellow mortal.”

Robert Burns, ‘To a Mouse’ 1785

All of the wild ones pictured in this booklet were either kept with their parents in the wild, or received care at fellow mortals. Because fellow mortals works with injured, orphaned, and sick wildlife, the pictures reflect actual injuries and conditions that were treated at the hospital.

The majority of wild ones brought to us are successfully rehabilitated.

www.fellowmortals.org

Photographs by fellow mortals or animal finders all material © fellow mortals 2019
What does a healthy baby look like?

- Bright, round eyes
- Presence of fecal by baby
- Alert & able to beg for food
- Clean, sleek fur
- Well nourished
- Normal posture
Babies too young to be out of the nest

Nestling birds can’t hop or fly and aren’t fully feathered

Feathers are absent or still enclosed in quills

Infant mammals still have eyes closed and are not fully furred

Clockwise from top: Grey squirrel; White-footed mouse; Cottontail rabbit; House sparrow; Mourning dove; Great horned owl
Babies too young to be without parents

Juvenile mammals may still be nursing or need the protection of parents

Fledgling birds cannot feed themselves—even though they can fly

Precocial animals rely on parents for protection from predators and to learn important behaviors

Clockwise from top: Grey squirrel; Great horned owl; Virginia opossum; Mallard; White-tailed deer; American robin
IDENTIFYING STARVATION & DEHYDRATION IN BIRDS

- Eyes closed or slitted
- Visible skin dry and wrinkled
- Feathers rough & dirty
- ‘Puffy’ appearance
- Lethargic & quiet
- Pale, dry mouth

Clockwise from top: Common nighthawk; European starling; Great horned owl; Broad-winged hawk; European starling; Cowbird
Identifying Starvation & Dehydration in Mammals

- Eyes closed or slitted
- Visible Skin dry and wrinkled
- Head ‘too big’ for body
- Fur rough & dirty
- ‘Bony’ appearance
- ‘Puffy’ appearance
- Lethargic & quiet
- Pale, dry mouth

Clockwise from top: Eastern cottontail; Eastern cottontail; Eastern chipmunk; Grey squirrel; White-tailed deer
IDENTIFYING ORPHANED FAWN

Healthy fawns tuck to hide and sleep
Tail and bottom are clean and dry

Orphaned & injured fawn are weak
Tail and bottom can be dirty and wet
NORMAL FAWN BEHAVIOR

No experience with humans or human things means no understanding of danger.

Instinct tells them to lie still and quiet for the hours between feedings.

Deer used to human activity may leave babies next to a house, on a porch or even on the side of the road between feedings.
Learning to recognize what’s normal & what’s not

Wings are spread for defense
Wings droop when a bird is sick, injured or starving

Orphaned, thin & dehydrated

Well-nourished (L) v starved (R)

Clockwise from top: Red-tailed hawk; Red-tailed hawk; Great horned owl; Canada goose; White-tailed deer
RECOGNIZING SYMPTOMS OF HEAD TRAUMA

Head trauma needs to be treated as quickly as possible

Symptoms include—
- Bruising, lacerations
- Misshapen head & eyes
- Drooping head & neck
- Different sized pupils
- Eye damage
- Difficulty standing
- Torticollis ('head tilt')
- Adult bird not flying

Clockwise from top: Blue jay; European starling; Grey squirrel; Great horned owl; Cooper’s hawk; Cooper’s hawk
Birds can suffer extensive feather damage as a result of flying through methane flare at landfills. It can take an entire year for them to molt damaged feathers and grow new ones.

**Eye disease & inflammation** affects vision & ability to find food & elude predators.

This condition can be treated, but takes several weeks in rehabilitation.

**Fly eggs appear like tiny grains of rice**

If not removed they hatch into maggots.

Presence of flies indicates baby may be orphaned or injured.

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Clockwise from top: House finch; White-tailed deer; Grey squirrel; Red-tailed hawk.

*Finch conjunctivitis (Mycoplasma gallisepticum)*
‘ANGEL’ WING IN JUVENILE CANADA GEESE

Geese are precocial and can walk and feed themselves 24 hours after hatching. They grow quickly and some goslings develop a wing deformity known as ‘angel’ wing. If not treated, the bird will not be able to fly.

‘ANGEL’ WING CAN BE CORRECTED IF THE GOSLING IS RESCUED IN TIME.

Older Goslings can be identified by the downy yellow fuzz on their heads, by tail feathers that are shorter than those of the adults, and by cheek patches that are more grey than white.
CAN YOU IDENTIFY WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE ANIMALS IN THE BOTTOM ROW?

White-tailed deer (head trauma); Green heron (head trauma, dehydration); European starling (emaciated, dehydration)
SHOCK & STRESS—WHAT LIES BENEATH

Once an animal is warm, it may become more active—this animal is NOT ‘better’—it has just realized that it is in dangerous proximity to a predator—YOU.

Many injuries, conditions, and diseases are not visible. Any injury—whether or not there is blood—can be fatal. NEVER release an animal you have contained for injury or orphaning without being instructed to do so by a Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator.

Feeding an injured or orphaned animal could make a condition worse, or result in death. This goose had no visible injuries but had eaten lead shot. If this goose had been given food before receiving treatment for lead poisoning, it would have died.

Visible Injuries that appear ‘minor’ may be an indication of life-threatening conditions. This fawn had visible puncture wounds—and a skull fracture.

Canada goose with impacted crop and x-ray showing lead in gizzard

Fawn admitted with head injuries and x-ray showing skull fracture
WILDLIFE FIRST RESPONDERS
YOUR SAFETY COMES FIRST!

CONTACT A WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR FOR ADVICE BEFORE ATTEMPTING RESCUE.

- Use personal protection—gloves & safety glasses. Wild animals will defend themselves.
- Contain the animal as directed—do not hold or cuddle it. Human touch is stressful, not calming.
- Keep animal contained and in a warm and quiet place. Human activity is stressful to the animal.
- Do not feed the animal. Feeding or providing liquids can cause further injury and damage.
- Keep wildlife away from pets & children.
- Transport the animal to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.
  Animals must be transported in an enclosed, quiet space (not the back of a pick up truck). Radio should be off, talking kept quiet and to a minimum, and pets should be left at home.

FELLOW MORTALS WILDLIFE HOSPITAL 262-248-5055 (ANSWERING MACHINE)
LICENSED FOR BIRDS FROM WISCONSIN & ILLINOIS & NON-PREDATORY MAMMALS FROM WISCONSIN

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