

**Damory Veterinary  
Clinic**

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# Damory Veterinary Clinic

## Small Animal Department



### WILDLIFE ADVICE

Many wild animals and birds produce their young in the spring and summer. It is normal for young birds to leave the nest and stay on the ground whilst their parents continue to feed them. Moving a young bird at this time will take away its required food source and its parents will often abandon it.

Young animals and birds are best raised by their parents and, as humans, we are not able to adequately replicate their needs and many die if attempts are made to raise them away from their normal environment.

These young animals and birds have developed techniques to avoid being eaten by predators but inevitably some will be caught by predators such as birds of prey or cats. Wild animals produce several young in each litter or clutch to allow for losses and it is a necessary part of the food chain that some are eaten by hunters.

If you find an injured or sick wild animal then you can bring it to us or another local vet. It is important to realise that the benefits of treating or saving a wild animal must be balanced against the stress of bringing that animal into an alien environment as well as the likelihood that it could be released back to its normal habitat.

An animal that is born wild and lives wild rarely adapts to being kept as a pet. In an animal that has significant injuries it is often better to euthanase that animal immediately rather than attempt extensive treatment when the possibility of full recovery is small.

To summarise, please leave young birds and animals where they are unless they are obviously injured. It is very likely that their parents are watching from a distance. Consider whether we should treat an injured animal from its point of view – it may seem kind to save it and raise it ourselves but would this be fair on the animal?

