**I Found a Baby Opossum. What Should I Do?**

**IMPORTANT:**
- It is a **myth** that if you touch a baby wild animal the parents will reject them – **this is simply not true.**
- Not all wild babies need help!
- Each year, we receive hundreds of baby opossums who are mistakenly taken from their parents.

**Before seeking help, ask these questions:**

- **Is the baby larger than 5 inches long (not including the tail)?**
  - **YES**
  - **NO**
  - This would be about the size of an adult hand from wrist to fingertips.

- **Is the baby uninjured, untouched by other animals (such as dogs or cats), and otherwise healthy?**
  - **YES**
  - **NO**

- **She needs help.**
  - She has most likely lost her mother. **Bring her to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Do not give food or water.**

- **Please leave her be.**
  - She's a juvenile, and though she is smaller than a full grown adult, young opossums are on their own at this age in the wild. She can take care of herself.

- **Did you know that opossums are the only North American marsupials,** meaning they carry their young in pouches?
  - Opossums often carry up to 13 babies at a time, however, only a few make it to adulthood. Opossums are one of the few mammals who will not go back to retrieve their young if they are separated. If you ever find a dead adult opossum, check her pouch to see if she has babies. If you don't feel comfortable doing so, bring her to a wildlife rehabilitator and have them check for you. Often, the babies can still be saved.

- **Opossums very rarely carry rabies.** Their naturally lower body temperature makes them immune to many diseases.

  *Note:* It is **illegal** for an unlicensed individual to possess a wild animal for more than 24 hours.

- **Please call our hotline if you have any questions or find a baby opossum.**
  - **(830) 336-2725**