# DO'S



Do maintain a safe distance from animals and respect their space (even if they are approaching you!).

Do keep an eye out for animals crossing the road. If it's safe for both parties, help move the animal across the road in the direction it is trying to go.



## **DON'TS**

Don't take an animal home or move it from its natural habitat. Moving an animal (even short distances) or taking it home can cause it harm, and in some cases, it's illegal.





Don't feed wild animals. This can lead to animal dependency on humans, can decrease the animal's ability to take care of itself, or cause the animal to not get the proper food/nutrition it needs.

#### WHEN SHOULD I REPORT SOMETHING?

When you experience or witness an animal interaction, ask yourself the following questions...

1. Did the animal look like it was actively in distress?

No

Yes

2. Did any animal become injured because of this interaction? Signs of injury may include: limping, dragging limbs/wings, or obvious wounds.

Yes No

3. Was any person or animal's safety put at risk over this interaction?

Yes No

4. Was there any illegal or suspicious behavior witnessed?

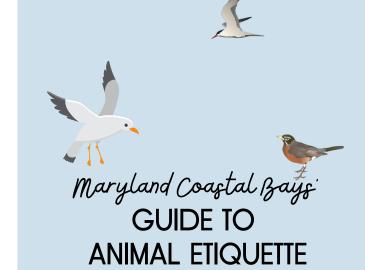
Yes No

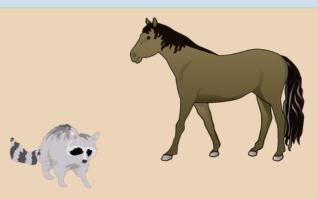
If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, scan the QR code to find out who to contact:



# SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT:

- The difference between an animal that is and is not in distress
- Who to contact/ report an animal emergency to
- Animals you may encounter and what behaviors are normal throughout the year
- Resources to help you ID an animal
- Animal rescue and rehab information
- Common wildlife diseases and their symptoms





How to treat wildlife with respect and know what to look out for











## COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS



"Finding a baby animal alone means it's in distress!"



Truth is, parents will often purposefully leave their young alone to search for food. Usually, a parent is nearby, even if you cannot see it.

"Seeing nocturnal animals during the day means they have rabies!"



Nocturnal animals may be active during the day for a number of reasons. If they look healthy, they likely are not carrying a disease like rabies.



"It is ok to dig up or move a turtle nest/eggs as long as I am careful."



Moving or handling turtle eggs can cause them to become unviable. Never disturb a turtle nest!

"I'm going to keep this wild animal as a pet to give it a better life."



Wild animals are happy where they are! Animals that have been kept in captivity lose their ability to survive in the wild. They will never be releasable again.



### TAKE ACTION



A baby animal that has little to no fur or is not fully developed is still too young to be on its own and should be returned to its nest.



Being noticeably underweight or missing fur are signs an animal is diseased. An animal that looks like the one pictured here should be reported to animal control.



Hatchlings/Nestlings are often bare, or covered in fuzzy down. They are unable to stand/hop. Carefully return the bird to its nest.

#### **LEAVE IT BE**



This baby bunny has all of its fur and is fully developed. As long as there are no signs of injury/illness you can leave it be



This is an example of a healthy looking "nocturnal" animal out in the daytime.



It's normal to find fledglings on the ground as they are learning to fly. A parent is nearby to feed and protect it. Make sure you keep pets away from the area.



Although this may look like an animal in distress, this is an example of a healthy horse sleeping on Assateague.

# SEASONAL WILDLIFE CALENDAR

In the Maryland Coastal Bays it is common for wildlife to display different behaviors throughout the year. The animals you may encounter may vary depending on the season. This calendar displays some of the common animals and the behaviors you may come across throughout the year in the Maryland Coastal Bays.



For more information on different species, scan the OR code on this brochure!

#### JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC **HORSESHOE SPAWNING** CRABS **NESTING/ BIRDS FLEDGING** RESTING/ **SEALS** STRANDING NESTING/ **TURTLES HATCHLINGS FOXES & ACTIVE DURING RACOONS** DAYTIME YOUNG FOUND **BUNNIES** ALONE