

## Baby Opossums

Baby opossums found alone are generally orphaned, since they are normally always with the mother. If you find babies attached to a dead mother, bring the mother in. The babies may have to be surgically removed from the nipples (they don't let go until they are two months old).

Older babies will often abandon their dead mother when starvation sets in. They will make sneezing and "keeking" hissing noises. They are tiny copies of adults and will probably be skinny and dehydrated. Look for a dead adult and other orphans in the immediate area before bringing the babies to a rehabber. They begin riding on their mother's back at three months and will occasionally fall off and be left behind; they will need some help before they are ready to go off on their own.



## How to Transport Baby Opossums

All babies will need a 'pouch' of some sort to feel comfortable. A winter hat works well for this, or a pillowcase, washcloth, or even a sock depending on how small the babies are. Place the babies, by their tail, in the makeshift pouch and then place the pouch into a shoebox, plastic tote, insulated lunch box, or any small container with a lid. Hairless babies need a heat source immediately. You'll need a heating pad, set to medium, place under HALF of the shoebox or small container so the opossums can get away from the heat source if they really want to. If you do not have a heating pad, you can make something similar



in two minutes. Grab a men's long sock, or even knee high nylon, and fill the sock with dry rice – any kind, just uncooked. Microwave the sock filled with rice for 1-3 minutes until it is very warm to the touch but not scalding. Place the rice sock in the shoebox or other small container under the opossums, making sure that they are not directly on top of the sock. Sometimes they will crawl on top of the sock and that's okay, but make sure they have the option to get away from it if it gets too hot. You'll need to reheat the rice sock once an hour or so, until you can get to a rehabber. **DO NOT FEED**

**THEM ANYTHING!** Babies often aspirate fluids and unless you are prepared to save them once they aspirate, and treat the impending pneumonia from aspirating, don't feed them.

Larger babies with eyes open can be placed on a non-terrycloth towel in a box of appropriate size. They don't NEED a heat source, but if you have them for longer than a couple of hours, provide them with heat of some kind. These are picked up by the tail. you put them in has a or tied down! find opossums car.



opossums should be Make sure the box lid and that it is taped Otherwise you may roaming through your