

# Animal Rehabilitator

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Aside from the many domesticated cats and dogs that roam and relax in and around her home, Faraci usually cares for around 30 wild animals at one time.

"The animals are usually discovered accidentally," said Faraci. Concerned neighbors, volunteers, and organizations like Council Bluffs Animal Control and Nebraska Wildlife Rehabilitators are ordinarily the ones who bring these animals to Faraci's attention after finding them on roadsides or away from their nests.

Faraci also gets help from the Glenwood Veterinary Clinic diagnosing and treating animals, usually those with diseases she isn't capable of treating on her own.

"We're learning together," said Faraci of rehabilitators like herself and local veterinarians.

Though Faraci takes great

care of her animals, she is careful not to pamper them. Few of the wild animals at her home have names, and none of them are fed anything that would not be introduced into their diet in the wild.

Faraci is passionate about caring for the animals she receives, but her biggest goals are farther-reaching.

"My main purpose is education," said the retired teacher. "I have to be tolerant and caring because of the human population taking over the habitat."

The best way to temporarily care for an orphaned animal, according to Faraci, is to keep it in a quiet, dark, warm, and dry environment while carefully supplying the correct diet of food and fluids. If the animal seems to be sick or injured, it may be necessary to take it to a veterinarian.

Faraci said that one of the biggest problems people have

with saving wild animals, especially young ones, is determining when they are in danger to begin with.

"A would-be rescuer," according to Faraci, "needs the knowledge and skills to decide whether or not the baby truly needs to be taken in."

According to Faraci, a mistake often made by well-meaning people who try to take in young animals is failing to recognize the importance of the animal's mother in the situation.

"The most important thing is to return the animal to its mother," said Faraci. "Wild mothers do the best job of raising their babies."

When the mother has been killed or is impossible for volunteers to find, Faraci is glad to take in the babies, supplying food, fluids, warmth, and a stable habitat until they are ready to be released back into the wild.