Quick guide · Costa Rica

What to do if you find a wild animal

1 Get to safety and observe

Keep your distance, move pets away, and ask others to step back. From a safe spot, watch how the animal moves and what is happening around it.

2 Check whether it needs help

Get help if you see warning signs
The animal is injured, struggling to breathe, trapped, or at risk from traffic or power lines. Report a window strike or an attack by a dog or cat even if you see no blood.

Give it space if it is alert and safe
Leave room for it to move away. A fledgling may be learning to fly, and a young animal on its own may be waiting for its mother.

Ask Costa Rica's National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC) for advice if you find a nestling with few feathers outside its nest, suspect a young animal is orphaned, or aren't sure what to do.

3 Call for help if needed

9-1-1 · Emergency
Call immediately if the animal is still alive after being hit by a vehicle or if there is immediate danger.

SINAC or an authorized rescue center
Contact them about injuries, collisions, attacks, or situations where you're unsure what to do and there is no immediate danger. In a protected area, notify a park ranger.

Find a local SINAC office or check the map of authorized rescue centers. To report an environmental violation, use SITADA or call 1192.

4 Share four details when you report it

Where it is
A map pin, road number, or landmark.

What animal it is
Species or a description from a distance.

What happened
What you saw and when it happened.

How it is doing
Whether it moves, bleeds, or is still in danger.

Leave a callback number. Share a photo only if you can take it safely without delaying the report.

5 Wait for instructions

Do not touch the animal or give it food, water, or medication. Wait for instructions from the people handling the report before trying to move or transport it.

Full guide and seven-scenario game

Fledgling, young jaguarundi, vehicle collision, fallen nestling, window strike, cat attack, and sloth on power lines.

https://www.natuwa.com/what-to-do-if-you-find-a-wild-animal/