

ALL ABOUT PETS

Keep baby animals safe and warm

The other day I discovered what looked like a tiny dead baby bird on my sidewalk. Looking closer, I realized the poor thing was alive but barely moving. I kept it in a box lined with cotton batten, tried to keep it warm overnight, then took it to the vet the next morning. She said it wouldn't be likely to survive. Is there anything else I could have done?

You were right to keep the bird warm — loss of body heat is a common cause of death in baby animals. Baby mammals can be placed in a cardboard box with a towel, baby birds can be placed in a small plastic tub or box lined with tissue or a towel, then placed inside a cardboard box. Try to keep the temperature around 80-90 degrees. You shouldn't attempt to give baby

animals food or fluids. Their small bodies are under stress and introducing foreign substances can strain their systems further. Birds, for instance, don't nurse and cannot digest cow's milk and, contrary to popular belief, not all birds eat worms. The best thing you can do for a sick or injured baby bird or mammal is to keep it in a safe and warm place and immediately seek professional advice from a veterinarian, nature center or wildlife rehabilitator.

Mail questions to: All About Animals, Michele Mitchell, Michigan Humane Society, 7401 Chrysler Drive, Detroit 48221. Mitchell is community relations director for the private, nonprofit agency, dedicated to serving animals since 1877. It operates three full-service shelters and charitable veterinary hospitals in the metro area.



Adopt-a-pet: Kerby is an absolute joy to be with. He is a very obedient and very gentle 6-year-old male Sheltie/Collie mix. Because he is a bit shy of other animals, he should be placed in a single-pet home. Kerby and other pets are available at the Michigan Humane Society Rochester Hills shelter, 3600 Auburn Road. Call (810) 852-7420 between noon and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday.

TREASURE SEARCH

Sculpture is Hindu deity

Dear Nancy and Frank:
My friend has this very unusual bronze sculpture. Can you clarify?
Tom,

Royal Oak
Not very well! Only a true academician of Indian mythology can really clarify, because the religious complexity of the Hindu society is so dense, it's like a jungle to navigate. However, we can tell you that what your friend has is a representation of Ganesha, an extremely popular, four-armed Hindu deity. Legend has it that he acquired his elephant head after his father, Shiva, struck off his original head because he refused his father admittance to the private bathing area of his mother, Parvati. He is considered the remover of ob-

stacles and is worshiped as the god of wisdom, prudence and good luck. After what happened to his head, we can't figure out why! These figures can range in size from tabletop to temple size. This one is about four feet high and, appearing to be of good quality, would have a retail value of around \$5,000 (if new) and possibly as high as \$25,000 (if antique).

Nancy and Frank Boos are with the Frank H. Boos Gallery, an appraisal firm and auction house at 420 Enterprise Court in Bloomfield Hills that has been in the auction business for more than 30 years. Do you have an item you would like to know about? Send in a good photo of it, along with its description (including size, working parts, etc.) and any known provenance (history) to Treasure Search, The Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009. Include your name, community and phone number.

Spiritual sculpture: Ganesha is a popular Hindu deity with an elephant head and four arms. Figures representing Ganesha have a wide range of sizes.



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