YOU FOUND A TURTLE?

Orphaned baby turtle?

There is no such a thing as an orphaned turtle. Female turtles lay their eggs and leave. The babies are on their own as soon as they hatched.

If you find a baby turtle please leave it alone. Do not take it home or move it to another area with the intention of protecting it. You can do more harm than good. Turtles carry specific turtle diseases from their area. If you relocate a turtle, you could be introducing a new disease to the new area, and that could be devastating for the turtles that live there. Turtles also have a powerful homing instinct and will only try to find their way back to their original home.

Rescue a turtle on the road

If you see a turtle in the road, and feel it is safe to stop, always carry it across the road in the same direction it was going, or it will just turn around and cross the road again. You can slide your car mat beneath a large turtle and push it to the side of the road. If it is on a highway or very busy road, do not move it further than 1/4 mile from where you found it. Also, turtles pee when they are upset, so hold it out in front of you!

If a turtle is injured in any way, please take it to St. Francis Wildlife.