

WILDLIFE BABY RESCUE GUIDELINES

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FOR BABY OR IMMATURE WILDLIFE ONLY, NOT ADULT ANIMALS

- Wear gloves when handling any wildlife—DO NOT HANDLE anything you are unsure of!
- Provide a heat source for all rescued wildlife: a soda bottle filled with hot water and covered in a sock, or a sock filled with rice that is microwaved till warm are excellent heat sources. DO NOT use a heating pad or lights.
- Provide a blanket or towel to snuggle under.
- Keep rescued animals in a quiet, dark, safe and confined area (pet carrier etc.) away from children and pets.
- **PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FEED A WILD ANIMAL—wrong food can kill! (Even pet shop formulas.)**

FAWNS:

- the baby has been crying (a 'maaapp' sound) for more than an hour
- the baby is injured or has been attacked
- the baby is lying stretched out, cold to the touch and is cold inside the mouth
- the baby walks directly up to humans or pets
- the edges of the ears are curled (dehydrated)
- the baby is in a dangerous place (in water, on a high ledge, wandering in a road, trapped in a fenced area, in a parking lot, etc)
- the doe is dead

SKUNKS:

- it is crying continuously (mewling sound like a kitten)
- the eyes are closed and it's out of the den
- it's lying stretched out and is cold to the touch
- the baby has been attacked or has any injuries
- the mother is dead or has been relocated more than 24 hours previously

RABBITS:

- the baby is crying (a high pitched scream)
- the nest is flooded or totally destroyed, especially if other babies nearby are dead
- the baby is cold or looks overly thin (dehydrated)
- the mother is dead or has abandoned the nest ... (cross sticks or yarn over the nest in a pattern so you can tell if they have been disturbed. Wait 24 hours before checking the nest again)
- the baby has been attacked or is injured
- the eyes are closed and it is out of the nest

WOODCHUCKS:

- The eyes are closed and it's out of the den
- It is injured or has been attacked
- It is lying stretched flat out or is cold to the touch
- The mother is dead or has been relocated more than 24 hours previously

FOX / COYOTE:

- The eyes are closed and its out of the den
- It is injured or has been attacked
- It's lying stretched out and is cold to the touch
- It is by itself with no siblings anywhere nearby
- The mother is dead or has been relocated more than 24 hours previously.

RACCOONS:

- the baby has been crying continuously
- the baby remains in the same spot for 24 hours
- the eyes are closed and the baby is alone
- it is lying stretched out, cold to the touch
- the baby is injured or has been attacked
- the mother is dead, or has been removed and relocated more than 24 hours previously
- it walks non-aggressively up to humans

SQUIRRELS:

- the baby is crying (a high, almost continuously pitched squeal sound) for any length of time
- the eyes are still closed and it is out of the nest
- the baby non-aggressively comes right up to humans or pets
- the baby is injured or has been attacked
- the mother has been removed or relocated more than 24 hours previously
- the mother is dead

CHIPMUNKS / MICE / MOLES:

- the mother is dead or has been removed or relocated more than 24 hours previously
- it is injured or been attacked
- the eyes are still closed and it is out of the den
- the den/nest is totally destroyed and mother hasn't returned to move the babies within 6 hours
- the baby is lying on it's side, stretched out and is cold, or is overly thin (dehydrated)

OPOSSUMS:

- The mother is dead or injured (check pouch for up to 13 babies. If mom is dead, gently and slowly pull babies off nipples and get warmed up immediately.)
- The baby is injured or has been attacked
- The baby is lying stretched out or is cold to the touch
- The baby is away from mom and/or siblings and its body (not counting tail) is less than 6" long

BEARS:

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RESCUE BEAR CUBS.

Go to www.branchvillecountryvet.com
RESOURCES page for more information