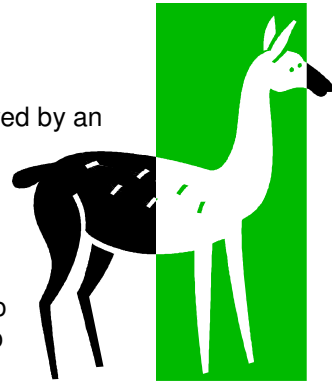


If you find a fawn

The local deer population experiences a boom every spring, followed by an increase in calls to rescue abandoned or orphaned fawns. What many concerned people don't realize is that a lone fawn is almost never abandoned.



Like rabbits, a mother deer avoids its baby during the day in order to keep predators away. Infant fawns are also incapable of keeping up with their mothers as they forage far and wide for enough food to produce milk. The doe may leave her fawn alone for hours at a time, only to return when the coast is clear. If a caller comes across a fawn lying silently and still in the grass, tell them to leave it alone! It's waiting for its mother, who won't come out as long as a human is there. The same rule applies to uninjured fawns found on or near a road. They can pick it up and move it out of harms way but be sure to leave it be. Don't worry about getting human scent on the fawn; a doe won't reject her baby just because it has an unusual smell.

If you should happen to find a fawn who is obviously ill (lying on its side kicking and crying, bloody or covered in flies) or hiding near the corpse of a doe, it needs help. Do not try to hold or comfort the fawn. Remember that it's a wild animal that won't find humans soothing at all.

Call the Center for a phone number for another rehabber that admits fawns ASAP. Fawns are fragile animals and exceptionally hard to care for in captivity. If the animal is to have any chance of being returned to the wild, it needs to be turned over to a licensed rehabilitator.

Please note that the Wildlife Center cannot accept fawns.