

You found a fawn! What now?



If the fawn is curled up (like a baby animal in a manger), it is waiting for its mother and most likely does not need your help! Mother deer leave their babies alone and return periodically to nurse them. It is not uncommon for fawns to be left in yards, playgrounds, parks, or anywhere with some grass and a place to rest. The mothers leave scent nests around their babies so they know not to get up and leave. If you find a fawn on your property, the first thing you should do is step back and observe! If it is positioned like the deer in the photograph and does not appear agitated or injured, leave it be - its mother is likely less than 90 meters away and will return for her baby. If you notice the fawn calling out for more than two hours or if it remains in the same place for over 24 hours, it may need your help.

Did You Know...

The white spots you see on a fawn will be lost over the course of its first year. When a fawn is born, it normally weighs between 6-8 lbs. and can walk within a number of hours!

Please DO

- Look for signs of injury (from a safe distance). An injured or displaced fawn may have an open wound, broken bone, or might be vocalizing loudly. If you notice flies present around the fawn's body, this could be a sign that the animal is injured and in need of care.
- Use gloves or plastic bags on your hands when handling any wild animal. All wild animals have internal and external parasites (e.g. lice, mites and ticks) that you do not want to bring into your home.

Please Avoid

- Bringing the fawn into your house or placing it in contact with children or your pets. It is a distressed wild animal and can act unpredictably – the last thing you want is to put yourself or the animal in danger.
- Prolonged physical contact (such as holding the animal against your body). Do not handle the fawn more than absolutely necessary! This is crucial for both your safety and the animal's.

If you determine that a fawn needs help...

- Carefully place the animal in a box with clean towels or blankets and (slowly) drive it to your local wildlife rehabilitator.
- Ensure that the box or crate is small enough so the fawn can't get up and move around during transport.

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