I Found a Baby Deer. What Should I Do?

**IMPORTANT:**
- It is a **myth** that if you touch a baby wild animal the parents will reject them – *this is simply not true.*
- Not all wild babies need help!
- Each year, we receive hundreds of fawns who are mistakenly taken from their parents.

**Before seeking help, ask these questions:**

- **Is the baby lying upright in one place, staying very still, and remaining quiet?**
  - **YES**
  - **NO**

- **Is the baby uninjured, untouched by other animals (such as dogs or fire ants), and otherwise healthy?**
  - **YES**
  - **NO**

- **He needs help. Bring him to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Do not give food or water.**

- **If he is crying out, laying on his side, and/or running around, he is in distress. He is likely an orphan and needs help. Bring him to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Do not give food or water.**

- **Please leave him be. He hasn't been abandoned. Mom will often leave her baby for long periods of time to forage, only returning at dawn and dusk. If he is in an unsafe location, you can move him to a safer area within 50-100 yards of where he was found.**

**A fawn's best chance is with their mother.**

Many fawns are brought in by people thinking they are abandoned; however, mother deer will often leave their babies alone for 10-15 hours a day, usually staying within 200 yards of their young.

Fawns do not carry a scent. While mom is away foraging for food, the baby will remain as still and as quiet as possible so as not to attract attention. Although they are essentially odorless to predators, mom will recognize her babies through her own scent that she deposits on her fawn.

*Note: It is **illegal** for an unlicensed individual to possess a wild animal for more than 24 hours.*

Please call our hotline if you have any questions or find a baby deer.  
(830) 336-2725

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