**I Found a Baby Raccoon. 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 baby raccoons who are mistakenly taken from their parents.

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

**Is she healthy and unharmed?** Signs of sickness or injury may include discharge from the eyes or nose, wobbliness, lethargy, or seizures. Injury can occur if she was caught by a larger animal.

- **YES**
- **NO**

**Is her mother still around?** Do you know she has not been trapped, removed, or killed?

- **YES**
- **NOT SURE**
- **NO**

**Is the baby showing normal behavioral and physical signs?** She should not be thin or debilitated, covered in fleas or fly egg/larvae, and should not be following people around or crying.

- **YES**
- **NO**

**Try to reunite the baby and mother by placing the baby in a cloth-lined box that is deep enough to hold her, and leaving her near where she was found.** Raccoons are nocturnal, so you may need to wait until dusk to do this successfully. Check back in 1-3 hours. **Is the baby gone?**

- **YES**
- **NO**

**She needs help. Bring her to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Do not give food or water.**

**Most healthy babies can be successfully reunited with their parents.**

Given the opportunity, a mother raccoon will return to where her baby was left behind and she will reclaim her young. Always remember that the baby's best chance for survival is to remain with her mother.

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

**Handling of any wild animal, of any age, is never a good idea.** If you must handle an injured or orphaned wild animal, **ONLY** do so when wearing protective gloves. If you see a raccoon wandering around during the day, this is not an indication that he or she is ill. Raccoons will sometimes forage for food during the day, especially if they are juvenile raccoons, who do not exhibit adult behavior until they mature.

**Please call our hotline if you have any questions or find a baby raccoon.**

(830) 336-2725