



Four Ways to Help Baby Wildlife This Spring

1. Fawns -If you find an uninjured fawn, do not pick it up! Keep people and dogs away so that the mother can return. Fawns are often left alone for long periods of time while the mother (doe) goes off and forages for food. To learn more about fawns please read "Resist Them" by Yvette Nowack.

2. Baby Birds - If the bird has no feathers, it is a nestling and it needs to be put back in the nest. If you cannot find the nest, you can make one and place it near the original nest-site. If parents do not return after a couple of hours to care for a naked, nestling bird, call the PWC hotline 805-543-WILD (9453).

3. Young Fledgling Birds - Most fledgling birds cannot fly when they leave the nest. They are often found on the ground. Keep pets and children away. The parents will continue to care for the bird. This is an important learning period in the little bird's life and lasts only a few days. The bird does not need rescuing.

4. Baby Mammals - We get calls regarding raccoons and opossums whose parents have been trapped, with babies left to die. Do not trap and relocate opossums, raccoons, or skunks. The babies will soon grow up and the family will usually go on its way. If you need help, call our PWC hotline for solutions.

Well-meaning individuals are tempted to raise orphaned wild animals. It is illegal to do so. Wild babies have specialized dietary needs and can become ill or die from improper diet. Licensed rehabilitators have the skills to feed these animals properly and to keep them wild so they can be returned to their natural habitat. Share this information with friends and neighbours.

