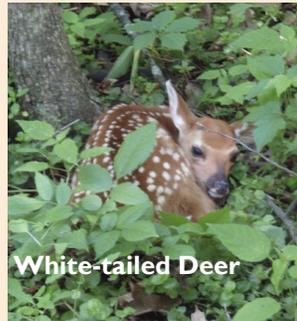


Wildlife Babies

What should you do if you encounter a baby animal that seems alone? The best course of action is to do nothing. The youngsters are doing exactly what their parent wants them to do.

Wildlife babies are meant to spend long periods of time alone. A mother rabbit will only visit her nest once or twice in a 24-hour period, and fawns are left alone all day. The absence of the mother protects the young from detection by predators. If the parents see you, a perceived predator, hanging around their young, they will certainly stay away.



White-tailed Deer



Fledgling

It's easy to become concerned when finding a young bird unable to fly. Although it looks as though the parents have left, they are still providing food to the fledglings. The parents may have multiple offspring spread throughout the neighborhood so it takes some time feeding them all.

Life is not easy for young animals of any species, but often-times our interference does more damage than good. If you find a wild baby, take a peek, enjoy the moment, and then move on so that you don't disturb them during this critical time in their lives.

Helping at Home

The most important thing you can do to help baby animals is to keep your cats indoors and your dogs in your yard or on a leash.

Assist wildlife in raising their young by providing places for them to hide in your yard. Small brush piles, native trees, shrubs, and tall grasses all offer welcome hideouts for young.



Domestic Cat

If an animal is truly injured or orphaned and you are uncomfortable letting nature take its course, there are licensed wildlife rehabilitators in the area. In order to raise native bird species or mammals, rehabbers hold permits issued by the state or federal government. For a list of licensed rehabilitators, check out:

<https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/dlr/>.

Stop by the Visitor Center Office for program information.

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