

Finding a Fawn



When a doe has a fawn, the fawn is too young to travel with its mother. It can't run, so the best protection against predators is to lie very still, since predators hunt by movement. The doe lays her young fawn down and tells it to stay there. She then leaves. It may be your front yard, back yard or doorstep. They do not stay by their babies like humans do, or like many of the domestic animals that we know about, such as cows and horses do.

The doe leaves the area so as not to attract predators to the spot where the baby is. They are watching though. The does will come back just after dark, feed and tend the baby and move it a bit, sometimes only a few feet, then lay it down again. How much the fawn is moved will usually depend on the age of the fawn and the ability to travel with mom. Once the baby is two to three weeks old, its ability to run is greater and its reaction may be to get up and run, rather than lie still.



People often expect that if they approach the fawn the doe will come charging out and try to keep them away. Not so. The does are hoping the human will react like most other predators, not notice the baby and leave. Unfortunately, many times if a human finds a fawn, they do not leave, they assume the baby is an orphan and take it (kidnap it). Imagine the mother's distress. So, just because you do not see the doe, does not mean she has abandoned her fawn. Does and other wild animals do not abandon their babies! They are very good, devoted mothers. Different wild animals protect their babies in different ways. Deer and Rabbits protect their young by NOT being there and only coming back to tend the baby when there is no one around and / or after dark. So, if you are standing there by the baby outside, I can guarantee that the mother will not be seen as long as you are in the area. To the deer or rabbit you are a predator.



There are certainly circumstances that require rescue rather than reuniting such as if you can see blood, open wounds, exposed bones or other injuries. Green Flies sitting on the fawn are an indicator of an injury, too. Additionally, if the fawn has been hit by a car, if



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the fawn is having trouble breathing or is unconscious, if a leg or legs appear damaged, or if it is caught in a fence or trap or has been attacked by a predator, the fawn should be brought to a wildlife rehabilitator.

A healthy fawn lays curled up and very still. If disturbed, a healthy fawn may get up and walk around bleating. The fawn's bleat sounds like "mma". If you have mistakenly disturbed the fawn, leave the area immediately. Let it lay back down somewhere and you should stay out of the area. Keep pets and children away. Do not allow someone to just take the fawn unless it has been truly determined that it is necessary. Fawns do much better when raised by their mothers, not humans.



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