



Many fawns are brought to wildlife centers needlessly after being picked up by the general public

Fawns are often left by buildings or at the edge of the woods or garden by their mother.

Photo by Laura Murphy

This is normal behavior and doesn't mean the fawn is abandoned.



Seeing a fawn alone does NOT mean that it is orphaned or that it needs human help. It is normal for a doe to leave her fawn alone while she goes off to feed, typically in the early morning and evening hours. In many cases, the doe will not return until nightfall.



# When to call for help about a fawn:

- ☪ If you have verified the mother is dead
- ☪ If the animal is continually crying
- ☪ If the animal is lying flat on its' side
- ☪ If the animal is obviously injured or covered with flies or ants



If you see a fawn which needs help, please call the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department or Elaine Conners Center for Wildlife at 603-367-WILD (9453).

**NEVER**  
*handle wildlife without gloves and*  
**DO NOT**  
*attempt to give a fawn food or water.*

In some cases, the fawn may be able to be reunited with its' mother. We will help you with this decision.

For more information on our *Deer Deputy Program* for children, please call the Center.

Elaine Conners Center for Wildlife is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Your donations go to the care of injured and orphaned wildlife at our Center.

Note that it is **ILLEGAL** to have in your possession or take any New Hampshire wildlife from the wild and keep it in captivity. Only qualified people with a special rehabilitator's permit, issued through Fish and Game headquarters, may possess any wild animal.



This brochure is paid for by the Rotary Club of North Conway, NH.

# Elaine Conners Center for Wildlife

Madison, NH 03849  
603.367.WILD

# BORN TO BE WILD!



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Spring and early summer in New Hampshire means the arrival of newborn and newly-hatched wildlife.



Each year, the lives of many wild animals are upset by people who mean only to help. These people take animals from the wild in a mistaken attempt to help them. In fact, these would-be-rescuers are leaving the parent animals to search in vain for their offspring and are harming the young animals' chances of having a successful life, if they live to be released. Young wild animals which survive improper human rearing do not have the skills necessary to fend for themselves. Seeing a young wild animal alone **DOES NOT** mean that it is abandoned, injured or needs assistance.

In many cases, it is normal for the parent animals to leave their young unattended for extended periods of time. And sometimes the parents are actually nearby, watching their young, but reluctant to return while people are present. 🐾



*May and June are when people in New Hampshire are apt to see deer fawns, or moose calves, by themselves.*

When a White-tailed fawn is seen by itself, the first instinct may be to intervene. In nearly all cases, this is not necessary. A fawn or calf alone does NOT mean that the animal is orphaned or that it needs assistance. It is normal for the mother to leave her fawn while she goes off by herself. The fawn, born without scent, is actually safer from predators when left alone. But it is at this time that problems arise for fawns. Some people feel an obligation to intervene, thinking that the fawn is "lost." Rarely is a fawn abandoned and never "lost"--pedal glands on the mother's feet allow her to trace her steps back to her fawn. If you should see a fawn in the road, put it off to the side where the mother will return for it. 🐾

*"Remember-- the best chance a young wild animal or bird has to survive is with its parents,"*

says Fish and Game Programs Administrator Mark Ellingwood.



"If you're lucky enough to see a fawn, count your blessings and leave the area, Ellingwood advises. Your continued presence or frequent visits will only contribute to the likelihood of the fawn being abandoned or found by a predator. Unless you can verify that a fawn's mother is dead -- please leave it alone.

Resist the temptation to continually

check on the animal; doing so only serves to further separate it from the doe."

Moose calves should also be left alone and given plenty of space, for all the reasons explained above. What's more, cow moose may aggressively defend a calf and can prove dangerous.

