

## Baby Animal Care

EVERY YEAR WELL INTENTIONED PEOPLE FACE THE DILEMMA OF WHAT TO DO WHEN THEY COME ACROSS WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN ABANDONED FAWN OR BABY BIRD THAT HAS FALLEN FROM A NEST. THE NATURAL RESPONSE IS TO HELP AND OFTEN THESE ANIMALS ARE PICKED UP AND THE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE GETS THE CALL. WHILE THE INTENTIONS ARE GOOD THIS IS NOT NECESSARILY THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

\*IT'S NOT UNUSUAL TO FIND A NEWBORN ANIMAL WITHOUT AN ADULT NEARBY. DEER, ELK AND OTHER ANIMALS OFTEN LEAVE THEIR YOUNG WHILE THEY GO OFF TO FEED AND AT THE SAME TIME, HAVE PREDATORS FOLLOW THEM.

WHILE A VERY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG ANIMALS ARE TRULY IN TROUBLE, IT DOES HAPPEN....DISTRICT WILDLIFE MANAGER CASEY WESTBROOK HAS THIS ADVICE....

WESTBROOK..."THERE ARE SOME OCCASIONS WHERE THE MOTHER MAY BE HIT BY A CAR OR SOMETHING. SO WE MAY HAVE A SITUATION WHERE THERE IS A BABY WHO HAS BEEN ORPHANED BUT IF SOMETHING DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT GO AHEAD AND CALL US. IT NEVER HURTS TO CALL DO THAT BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING ELSE." :23 1:49

ABANDONED, SICK OR INJURED ANIMALS ARE ROUTINELY TURNED OVER TO LICENSED WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS. IT'S THESE PEOPLE WHO ARE TRAINED TO USE METHODS THAT WILL GIVE THE ANIMALS THE BEST CHANCE OF SURVIVING ONCE THEY ARE RETURNED TO THE WILD.

REMEMBER TOO THAT NOT ALL YOUNG ANIMALS BORN WILL SURVIVE. SPECIES HAVE EVOLVED TO INSURE THAT ENOUGH YOUNG ARE BORN ANNUALLY TO ABSORB THE MORTALITY RATE AND STILL HAVE ENOUGH YOUNG FOR THE SPECIES TO SURVIVE. BABY ANIMALS ARE DESIGNED TO LIVE WITH THEIR PARENTS IN THE WILD.