

# DEER FAWN factsheet

- Mother deer leave their fawns alone for long periods. To avoid attracting predators to her baby, a mother may only return a few times a day to nurse the young deer.
- Fawns are unable to follow their mothers for the first two weeks of life. They are as small as a cat when born, and it is normal for them to look small and weak.
- While the mother is away, the fawn will typically lie quietly in vegetation waiting for her to return. The fawn's camouflage and lack of scent keep it hidden from potential predators.
- Every year, wildlife rehabilitators care for healthy and normal fawns that are mistakenly thought to be orphaned. Although well-intentioned, these attempts to "rescue" fawns do them more harm than good.



## What happens next?

If the deer fawn is truly an orphan, or is injured and needs treatment, Wild ARC's staff of trained wildlife rehabilitators will provide the specialized care it will need to have the best chance of returning to health, and to life in the wild.

## How can I help?

We rely on donations to support our work. Here are some examples of the costs of caring for some common animals:

Animal	Cost of Care
Robin	\$50 per week
Heron	\$100 per week
Deer fawn	\$200 per week

An injured or orphaned animal's best chance for success is to be cared for by a wildlife rehabilitation centre. Your donation will help us care for wild animals in need.



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## WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A DEER FAWN



# DON'T TOUCH the babies





## WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

If you find a baby deer that you think may be an orphan:

- If the fawn is lying quietly and appears uninjured, leave it alone. It is normal for a mother deer to leave her baby alone for periods of time. Remember that the mother deer will be wary of you, so your presence in the area could discourage her from returning. Leave the area.
- Keep pets away from the area.
- If you think the fawn is not being cared for by its mother, return the next day to check on it. If it is in the exact same spot and bleating (crying out), it may be orphaned.
- If you do believe the fawn is orphaned, or if it is injured, contact a wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.

## WHAT YOU SHOULDN'T DO

- Don't touch the fawn. If you have already handled it, find a towel, rub it in the grass, and wipe the fawn down to remove your scent.
- Don't move the fawn. If you have moved it, return it to its original location, unless the area is unsafe. If the fawn is dangerously close to a road, move it to the side.
- Don't attempt to capture and care for the fawn yourself. If it is orphaned or injured, contact a wildlife rehabilitator for assistance. It is important to handle deer orphans carefully and minimize human contact to give them the best chance of returning to the wild.

### Call a wildlife rehabilitator if:

- The deer is obviously injured (bleeding, broken limb).
- You know the fawn is an orphan (you see evidence that the parent is dead).
- The fawn is lying on its side, or wandering and crying.

If a young animal is truly orphaned or injured, it needs prompt attention! Contact your local wildlife rehabilitation facility as soon as possible.

**On Southern Vancouver Island  
call Wild ARC: (250) 478-9453**

