

What to do if you find a **DEER**

Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge
4 Sawmill Road | Medford, NJ 08055
CedarRun.org | 856-983-3329



Description

White-tailed deer have a tan or brown coat with white on the throat, stomach, and the underside of the tail. Fawns have white spots on their coat that help to camouflage the baby until it is old enough to defend itself. Deer are very high stress animals. Older fawns and adults are powerful and can be extremely dangerous if handled.

What To Do

Finding a fawn alone is not a cause for alarm, as mothers leave their young alone for long periods of time so as not to attract predators. Mom only comes to feed the baby and then will leave it alone. If the fawn is lying curled up, quiet, and clean, then it is fine and not abandoned. Fawns will also wander about without their mother, but may seem uncoordinated. This may occur for 3-4 weeks after birth. Signs of an orphaned fawn include seeing a dead doe near the baby, hearing the fawn cry for hours at a time, and a large number of ticks or other parasites on or around the fawn. If these signs are present, or if the baby is injured, please call a wildlife rehabilitator. Please note, our wildlife hospital cannot accept adult deer.

Rehabilitation

All young animals are better off with their parents, whenever possible. Please leave the fawn unless signs of abandonment are shown. If present, then call our wildlife hospital at 856-983-3329 ext. 107. Put the fawn in a pet carrier lined with a towel. Please be aware that older fawns can be dangerous and all are very high stress. Do not attempt to give food or water. Most animals can go 24 hours or more without food, even babies. Please keep in mind to minimize excessive stress to the fawn.



Do Any
Of These
Apply?

- Is it covered in fly eggs?
- Is it bleeding, or visibly wounded?
- Is it cold, wet, or crying nonstop?

YES

If any of these signs are visible then immediately call Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge and bring it in for rehabilitation. Our wildlife hospital does not accept adult deer. If you find a fawn in August, please call our wildlife hospital before taking any steps to capture or transport the deer.

NO

If the fawn is healthy, leave the baby where it was found, as it is most likely not abandoned. Fawns will be left alone except for feeding for 3-4 weeks after birth. By August, most fawns are able to survive without their mother even if they are orphaned.