

# What to do if you find a RABBIT

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



## Temperament

Baby rabbits are incredibly fragile and do not take handling by humans well at all. They are a high stress animal and excessive handling can be potentially fatal. Never chase a rabbit to capture it, and handle it as little as possible. Keep wild rabbits away from children, pets, and noise.

## What To Do

First off, if the babies eyes are still closed, they are under 10 days of age. If the nest is intact, if the babies look plump and are nestled snuggly next to each other, if there seems to be no immediate danger to them then leave them alone. General rule of thumb is if they are larger than a tennis ball then they are free to be alone.

Baby rabbits only need to come in if they are injured or abandoned. Mother rabbits are away from their nest most of the time. They only come back twice a day, in the morning and evening. Just because you don't see the mother doesn't mean she's not coming back. Even if there was a disturbance, the mother will most likely come back to its nest.

### Do Any Of These Apply?

- Is it covered in fly eggs?
- Has it been in a cat mouth?
- Is it bleeding, or visibly wounded?
- Is it cold, wet, or crying nonstop?



Front and Rear Tracks

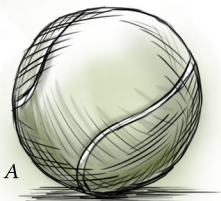


Fig. A

Tennis Ball - 2.7 Inches

## Rehabilitation

All young animals are better off with their parents, whenever possible. If reuniting fails, then call our wildlife hospital at 856-983-3329 ext.107. Place the animal in a box or pet carrier lined with a towel. Do not attempt to give food or water. Most animals can go 24 hours or more without food, even babies. If you cannot get to the refuge immediately, place the box on a heating pad set to low or fill a water bottle with warm water and place it in the box. Always keep in mind to minimize excessive stress to the rabbit.

### NO

If the rabbit is larger than a tennis ball (Fig. A), then there is need to intervene. If smaller, then attempt to locate the nest and place the rabbit back. Put string or twigs over the nest in a cross shape and check to see if it has been disturbed at dawn and dusk. If no change after 24 hours, then contact our wildlife hospital. If pets are present then place an overturned laundry bin on the nest during the day and remove the basket at night so the mother can feed.

### YES

If these signs are visible then immediately bring it in for rehabilitation.



Adult Size

15.5 to 18.75 inches