

What to do if you find a RACCOON

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



Description

Raccoons are a well-recognized mammal that can grow to be larger than a small dog. Their fur is coarse and thick, and salt and pepper colored. Their faces have the characteristic black mask and their tails have black rings. Raccoons are primarily nocturnal, but can be seen out during the day scavenging for food if necessary. Seeing a raccoon during the day is not an indication of rabies. ALWAYS wear heavy gloves with raccoons, adults and babies!

What To Do

Finding healthy baby raccoons alone is not a cause for alarm. Mothers routinely move their babies and will come back to retrieve them. If a baby falls from a tree den, the mother may not retrieve it until after dark. Wearing heavy gloves, place the baby in an open box or open pet carrier in the location that it was found. If very small, place water bottles filled with warm water next to the baby. If the baby is there in the morning, it is most likely orphaned and needs to be taken to a rehabilitation center. If babies are found in an attic, place rags soaked in ammonia around the den and attic. Also, leave lights on and music playing 24 hours a day. This will cause the mother to feel threatened and move her babies. Please allow the mother a few days to a week to move her family. Baby raccoons are old enough to survive on their own when they are the size of a football.

Rehabilitation

All young animals are better off with their parents, so please attempt to reunite if possible. If reuniting fails, call our wildlife hospital at 856-983-3329 ext. 107. Wearing gloves, place the animal in a box or pet carrier lined with a towel. Do not attempt to give food or water.



Do Any
Of These
Apply?

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



Rear and Front Paws

Adult Size



16 - 28 inches

YES

If any of these signs are visible then immediately call Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge and bring it in for rehabilitation.

NO

If the raccoon is larger than 16 inches from nose to hind quarters then the raccoon is more than likely old enough to be fully independent. If smaller, then steps to reunite with its mother may need to be taken. Refer to the "What To Do" section for information on this process.