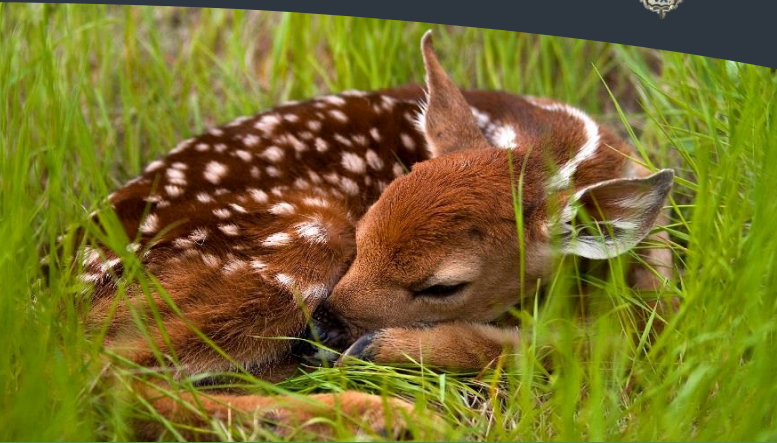


FAIRFAX COUNTY WILDLIFE



DON'T BE A FAWN KIDNAPPER

Every spring and summer, Animal Protection Police and wildlife professionals receive calls from residents to assist healthy white-tailed deer fawns found alone on properties that are mistakenly thought to be orphaned or abandoned.

Young fawns are “hidlers”, and, in their first few days of life, they will lay bedded down and motionless. In most cases, these fawns are healthy and only temporarily left by their mothers; no human intervention is needed.

It is normal for female deer to leave their fawns alone for extended periods of time to avoid attracting predators to the fawn’s location. Even though she may be out of sight, the mother is likely nearby.

Mother deer will return for brief periods of time, often at dawn and dusk, to nurse, groom or move her fawn. These actions may go undetected by people.

Rehabilitation of deer fawns in Fairfax County is now prohibited by state wildlife regulation (4VAC15-90-294) to reduce potential spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

A fawn’s best chance of survival is to remain wild under the natural care of its mother. Given that fawns can no longer be rehabilitated in Fairfax County, it is especially important to make every effort possible to leave healthy fawns where they are found unless their health is truly compromised.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
ANIMAL SERVICES DIVISION

What to do if you find a fawn:

- If the fawn is lying quietly and appears uninjured, **leave it alone**. The mother deer will be wary of you, and your presence in the area could prevent her from returning. Make sure to give the fawn space so the mother can return and tend to her fawn.
- Keep children and pets away from the area.
- 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 attempt to "rescue" and care for the fawn yourself. It is illegal to keep wildlife without a permit.
- Don't capture and move the fawn. If you have moved a fawn and less than 24 hours have passed, return it immediately to the exact place where it was found. Its mother will be looking for it!
- Only if a fawn is showing obvious signs of injury or distress, such as wandering and crying incessantly, swollen eyes, visible signs of trauma (i.e., open wounds or broken bones), flies or maggots, or if there is a dead lactating doe nearby, should you seek assistance for the animal.
- If an animal is displaying these signs, contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, veterinarian or Animal Protection Police for further assistance.

*Fairfax County Animal Services Division
Animal Protection Police & Wildlife Section
4500 West Ox Road
Fairfax, VA 22030
Dispatch 703-691-2131*

*Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline
Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
& USDA Wildlife Services
855-571-9003 (toll-free)*



Fairfax County
Police Department,
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Division – Wildlife Section:
(703) 246-6868 TTY 711