

I Found a Baby Rabbit ...



Do any of the following apply to the rabbit?

- It is bleeding, has an open wound, or has a broken bone.
- It's been in a cat's or dog's mouth.
- It's covered in fly eggs [these look like small grains of rice].
- It's cold, wet, or crying nonstop.

YES

Take the rabbit to a wildlife rehabilitator or veterinarian.

NO

Is the rabbit fully furred with its eyes opened?

NO

Rabbits are a sensitive and high-stress species. Never chase a rabbit to capture it, and handle it as little as possible. Do not give food or water to injured or orphaned rabbits; they have very sensitive stomachs.

Locate the nest and put the rabbit back. You will not see a lot of activity at the nest; mother rabbits stay away to avoid leading predators to their young. To check for nest activity, lay four pieces of string in a tic-tac-toe pattern over the nest. Leave the area and check back in 12 hours. If the mother rabbit has returned, the strings will be out of place. If the strings are undisturbed, and the young rabbits have missed more than two feedings [early morning and dusk], the rabbits should be taken to a permitted rehabilitator.

YES

If the rabbit is larger than a softball and weighs more than 4 ounces or 100 grams, leave it alone! It is on its own and does not need human intervention.

Cottontail Facts:

- Nest March - September
- Average Litter: 4-5 babies
- Litters per season: 3-4
- Disperse at 15-20 days old

Nests are found in shallow depressions on the ground [cottontails do not burrow], covered with soft grasses and lined with tufts of the mother rabbit's fur.

Mother rabbits are very secretive so they don't draw attention to their nests; it is very rare that you will see a mother rabbit coming and going.

Mom feeds her young only two times a day: at dusk and dawn.

A Word about Mowing:

Do not attempt to mow within 10 feet of a rabbit's nest if there are babies present. Protect a nest during mowing by placing a plastic lattice laundry basket upside down over the nest. Remove after mowing.

For more information about what to do if you find a baby rabbit, visit www.wildlifecenter.org/baby-rabbit

Raising a wild animal in captivity is **illegal** unless you have a state permit.