

Ring in 'H Y'bYk 'mYUf 'with these Babies!

The New Year Baby has been featured in many cartoons over the course of our history, symbolizing the birth of a new year. It's a time for new beginnings, resolutions, and an attitude of 'out with the old and in with the new.'

At Open Spaces, we want to take part in the tradition with a nature twist. We couldn't think of a better way than with these adorable baby *animals*.

And when it comes to resolutions, let us all resolve to do all we can to protect baby animals everywhere and the wild places they call home.



Do you know the names for baby animals? Many of them are easy to guess, like these polar bears, which are called *cubs*. See how well you do with the rest!



This red fox *kit* was photographed by Lamar Gore (USFWS) in Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts.



Isn't this Canada Lynx *kitten* adorable? James Weliver (USFWS) took pictures as the kittens in the litter were tagged and measured. Did you know the feet of the Lynx act like snowshoes, distributing their weight on the top of the snow?



Tagged baby lynx *kitten*, Photo Credit: USFWS



This is a gull *chick*, the image was taken by Peter Davis (USFWS) at Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge.



This Green Sea Turtle is called a *hatchling*. Keenan Adams (USFWS) got this great shot at Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge.

Prairie dogs are classified as ground squirrels, and occur only in North America.



Yipping prairie dog *pups*, Photo Credit: Rich Keen/RMA

The San Joaquin kit fox is the smallest fox in North America, only weighing in at about 5 pounds.



San Joaquin kit fox, Photo Credit: Carley Sweet/USFWS

Loggerheads nest anywhere from one to seven times within a nesting season, and depending on temperatures, incubation time ranges from about 45-95 days.



Loggerhead sea turtle *hatchling*, Photo Credit: USFWS

Harbor seals can swim at birth, unlike elephant seals, and spend half their time in water and half their time on land.



Juvenile Harbor Seal *pup*, Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge Photo Credit: Peter Davis/USFWS

The North American black-footed ferret is one of only three ferret species in the world.



Ferret Kits, National Black-footed Ferret Conservation Center, Photo Credit: Kimberly Tamkun/USFWS

Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge is in Washington State, at the mouth of Discovery Bay in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. While it's closed to the public, it serves an important role in protecting nesting seabirds and harbor seals. In fact, 72 percent of the seabirds in Puget Sound nest on Protection Island.



Duckling, Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge Photo Credit: Peter Davis/USFWS

The American Bison has been called "Buffalo" for so long that we now use the names interchangeably. They appear slow and docile but really are quite agile and can run as fast as a horse!



A bison *calf* at National Bison Range. Photo Credit: Steve Hillebrand/USFWS

The Barn Swallow is a bird of open country which normally uses man-made structures to breed which means the species has spread with human expansion.



Barn Swallow *Chicks*, Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge Photo Credit: Peter Davis/USFWS