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**Common Questions**

Q. My dog found some baby bunnies. What should I do?

A. Put the bunnies back where you found them. If they are still in a nest, place a 2' X 2' or larger piece of flat wood over the nest, with the wood perched on bricks or other material so that the parent cottontail can get to the youngsters but dogs or cats can't.

Q. I found a baby squirrel. What should I do?

A. Put the squirrel in a small box at the base of the nearest tree. The adult squirrel will retrieve the baby if it is left alone.

Q. A baby bird has fallen from its nest in a tree in my backyard. Should I bring it into the house and feed it until it is able to fly?

A. No. The best thing to do is put the bird carefully back into the nest, or shepherd it into some thick shrubbery or other protected space in your yard. The parents will continue to feed and care for the fledgling. Also, keep your dogs and cats in the house to allow the young bird's parent to care for it. As a last resort, a nestling can be placed in a clear plastic butter dish with a napkin in the bottom. This artificial nest can then be put in a bush or tree near the place the nestling was found.

Q. I was walking through the woods and saw several baby raccoons on the ground near a large tree. Should I bring them home and care for them?

A. No. Most likely the young raccoons are merely exploring, and their mother is nearby. They are probably old enough to be fully capable of climbing back up the tree to their den when they are ready to return. If they were too young to climb, the mother would carry them back.

Q. I found an abandoned fawn near the edge of a field next to my property. I brought the fawn into my house to save it, but don't know how to care for it. What should I do?

A. Immediately take the fawn back to the spot where you found it, and leave it there. The mother should come back again looking for the fawn. Even one or two days after removal from the wild, fawns have been successfully reunited with their mothers by returning them to the place where they were found. The mother was probably feeding not far away when you found the fawn.

Q. A bird flew into my picture window and seems unable to fly. What should I do?

A. Often, birds are just stunned from impact with windows; generally, they recover after a few minutes and fly off. Keep your dogs and cats in the house, and leave the bird alone so that is has a chance to recover on its own. If necessary, place the bird in a loosely closed paper bag until you hear it stirring, and then release it.

Q. I saw a hawk that acts like it has a broken wing. What should I do?

A. Since there are federal laws against possession of migratory birds, including hawks and owls, contact the nearest office of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to get information on rehabilitators that have the correct permits.

Q. What if the parent doesn't come back or the animal dies?

A. Death is an integral part of the natural world. It may even represent life to another wildlife species which can use that animal as sustenance or to feed their young. Many animals die before reaching adulthood. For example, more than 75 percent of all rabbits die before they reach five months of age. While it may seem disheartening to see a young animal die, it represents only one individual in an entire population which could not thrive if all young born survived.