

Fawn Education

Reporting – When reporting a fawn that needs help, you will be asked a lot of questions. Some of which, you may ask yourself: “why do they need to know these things?” We only ask what we need to know to properly assess the fawn’s need for help, and, things the state requires us to ask by law.



We do not use any data we collect for any other reason.

What types of things might be asked?

- ✓ Name, address and phone number.
- ✓ The county where the fawn was found.
- ✓ What was the exact location where the fawn was found – address, cross roads, etc.
- ✓ Information about the condition of the fawn:
 - Was it orphaned, or abandoned?
 - Is it Lethargic, hypothermic, emaciated, etc.?
 - Was it attacked by a dog, or coyote
 - Was it hit by a car, caught in a fence, or otherwise injured?
- ✓ Did you try to feed it, or give it water?
- ✓ Did you provide any medical care?
- ✓ How long have you had the animal?

This is all extremely important to providing the best possible care for the animal from when it was found to its eventual release, so please, provide as much information as possible.

Thank You!

Capture & Care – When it's determined that a fawn needs help, the next step is to capture and care for the animal until it arrives at the rehab center. Here are some things to help you – and the fawn!

- 1) If the fawn is very young, or lethargic, they are usually quite easy to catch, however, juvenile fawns, weighing 15 lbs or more, can be very fast and hard to catch!
 - a. Try not to chase a fawn, or run a fawn down. They become stressed very easily and can go into Capture Myopathy and die as a result.
 - b. Try having someone approach the fawn very slowly from the front to keep its attention, while you take a blanket and sneak up from behind. Then quickly place the blanket over its head and gently restrain it to avoid overstressing it.

Fawn Education

- 2) Once captured, keep a juvenile's head covered to help keep it calm, but make sure that it can still breathe. Very young fawns can be placed in a large box, or tote, with a blanket, juveniles may need to be placed in a dog crate, or held.
- 3) **Do** check the fawn's temperature by placing your hand in its armpit.
 - a. If the fawn feels warm, provide a blanket to help it stay warm.
 - b. If it feels **cold**, warm the blanket in a dryer, or warm some water bottles to help warm it up. Hypothermia kills lots of fawns each year.
 - c. If the fawn feels **hot** to the touch, and is panting like a dog, place a fan nearby to help cool it, you can also wipe it down with wet rags to help cool it. Hyperthermia leads to brain and organ damage and can kill a young fawn.
- 4) **Do** keep the fawn away from **sights**, **sounds**, and **smells** that will cause stress:
 - a. Whisper in the presence of the fawn. Keep it away from loud noises, barking dogs, etc. These sounds terrify a fawn and can cause it to go into shock.
 - b. Keep pets away and use clean blankets, as the smells of humans and pets are predatory smells that only cause stress.
 - c. Place the fawn in a dark, quiet space, away from people and pets, or any other sights that may frighten it.
- 5) **NEVER**, unless told to by the rehabber, attempt to give food to the animal!!!
If the animal is dehydrated, there is a very good chance that they cannot process food or formula and can die from intestinal problems as a result. You can give it water, but in a dish, don't try and bottle feed them water as they can aspirate and die.
- 6) **NEVER**, try and bottle feed a fawn! We use a specific formula and technique to prevent aspiration. Every year, well-meaning people try and feed their fawn and it dies from pneumonia caused by aspiration.
- 7) **Do** call a rehabber right away, don't wait! Time is critical.

Transportation – Often the rehabber will be very busy, caring for other fawns, and will ask you to bring your fawn to them. This is actually not our preference, but as time is crucial, and it is often needed. That said, here are some things you can do to help increase the chances that your fawn will survive this very stressful event.

First, it is important to understand why transportation is so stressful for a fawn. The sights, sounds and smells associated with humans are terrifying to a fawn, especially the older ones! Remember, to them we are predators and dangerous!

Second, the fawn has been captured. This is extremely frightening to them because they feel as though they may be eaten at any time. All they want to do is escape! So, being restrained in any way is also terrifying to them.

Things you can do to mitigate their stress in transport include minimizing sights, sounds, and smells:

Fawn Education

- ✓ If the fawn is very small, wrap it in a blanket and place it in a box or tote, then place a towel over it to provide a dark space and eliminate unnecessary sights.
- ✓ Eliminate unnecessary sounds:
 - ✓ Keep voices low around them – whisper.
 - ✓ Turn off the radio.
 - ✓ No talking on the phone.
 - ✓ Keep car windows closed.
- Eliminate unnecessary smells:
 - ✓ Leave pets home.
 - ✓ No smoking in the car.

You get the idea. The bottom line is that the fawn is already terrified and can easily go into Capture Myopathy, a form of shock that often leads to death. Minimizing sights, sounds and smells can greatly increase a fawn's chances of survival. **Thank You for your Help!!**