

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A BABY FAWN



*This time of year, Animal Control receives dozens of calls from residents who see a fawn alone and assume that it is abandoned and needs their help. The reality is usually very different.*

Does will leave their fawns “parked” in a safe place for up to 24 hours while they go out and forage for food. Unfortunately, the fawns often do not stay “parked” and wander into your yards to look for mom. If we simply leave them alone, they will usually reunite with mom within a day. Even if something has happened to mom, the fawn will usually be adopted by a related herd member, such as an aunt or an older sister.

If we step in and hand raise the fawn it stands a slim chance of long-term survival in the wild. This is because they imprint easily, and can grow up thinking that all people are good and carry food. This leads them into close proximity with people, cars, dogs, and many urban dangers. Additionally, if the fawn reaches reproductive age, and has no fear of people, they become very dangerous, claiming “your yard” as “its territory,” threatening and even harming pets and children. It is also illegal to hand raise a fawn.

If the fawn, is lying flat out on its side with its head and feet away from its body, has an excessive amount of flies flying around it, is wandering around aimlessly and crying for more than an hour, or if the fawn is following people or pets, immediately contact the Village at (512) 250-2075.

**\*Please exercise extreme caution when encountering a doe and her fawn and give them plenty of room, the doe could attack you or your dogs or children and can inflict severe injuries, they have very sharp hooves, especially if they have lost their fear of humans due to being fed by them.**