

Wildside Rehabilitation

Rescue ♥ Rehabilitate ♥ Release ♥ Respect

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SPRING NEWSLETTER

March 2017
Issue number six
Chapter Two

Wildside Rehabilitation is a non-profit 501C3 (#26-3589) organization dedicated to provide a safe-haven for wildlife in need of healing and advocacy in Central Oregon.

Wildside caregivers strive to heal, nurture and prepare wildlife for a return to their native environment.

website
www.wildsiderehab.com

facebook
Wildside Rehabilitation



Wildlife Rehabilitators

Licensed wildlife rehabbers are required to be tested before they are issued a license. They must have their facilities inspected by ODFW every other year. They are required to submit a report twice a year listing every animal in their care with details such as why admitted, where found by whom, and precise dispensation.

Licenses are issued for particular types of wildlife: Raptors, Birds, Mammals and/or Amphibians. A rehabber can hold more than one license but must be tested for each category in order to obtain a specific license. Rehabbers are not allowed, by law, to rehab a category that they are not licensed for. At this writing, there are 8 licensed rehabbers in Central Oregon and there are three that are in the process of obtaining their licenses.

There is a list of rehabbers and what they are licensed to rehab on the last page of this newsletter.

Wildside's Wildlife Rehabilitators

Wildside has three facilities with three rehabilitators coordinating and cooperating in the best interest of each individual critter. One of us might have the best housing while another might have the time or expertise to best provide the necessary care. We work together to nurture and protect them...we are a team!



TRACY LEONHARDY

License #1522 for Mammals

Tracy is the President of Wildside Rehabilitation, Inc. She and Val McKie founded Wildside Rehabilitation.

Tracy is a Veterinary Technician. She mentored under Bill and Jane Stevens and has more than 40 years experience in wildlife rehabilitation.

Tracy is a walking encyclopedia when it comes to the feeding and care of a vast list of species, which qualifies her to be our valued advisor.

Tracy is expert with all mammals but she specializes in neonate fawns



SANDY TOHMPSON

License #1584 for Mammals

Sandy has a Bachelors Degree. She is presently employed by a local veterinarian as a vet assistant.

She started volunteering with Bill and Jane Stevens when she was 10 years old.

Sandy volunteered and was mentored at Chintimini Wildlife Center.

Wildside critters benefit from Sandy's education, work experience and the vast knowledge she brings to us from the Stevens and Chintimini.

Sandy specializes in Rabbits and Bats



JUDY NIEDZWIECKE

License #1583 for Mammals

Judy's facility is where most of the orphaned wildlife end up to be cared for between weaning and release.

Judy's lifelong experience with animals of all kinds supports her work with wildlife. She owned and managed a horse breeding farm for 18 years. She organized and managed the Foster Program at HSCO for five years and still fosters orphaned kittens for them.

Judy produces the Wildside Newsletter and the Website.

Often called the "Squirrel Lady", she nurtures most of the orphaned squirrels and chipmunks in Central Oregon and then houses them until soft release.

deadly barbed wire



Barbed wire is extremely hazardous to wildlife and domestic animals. Every year numerous calls are received regarding owls, falcons, hawks, songbirds and mammals that have become entangled in barbed wire fencing. Many struggle there until they die. Injuries are usually so severe that euthanasia is the only alternative.

In 2007, *Wild Wings Raptor Rehabilitation* partnered with *Deschutes County Juvenile Community Justice* to remove nonfunctional barbed wire that has fallen to the ground, has been partially buried or is no longer used to fence in livestock.

Since this program started, over 41 tons of barbed wire has been removed and recycled.

This service is free to landowners

The barbed wire is taken down and removed for recycling in a timely manner. The posts are left in place to mark property boundaries.

Please Call:

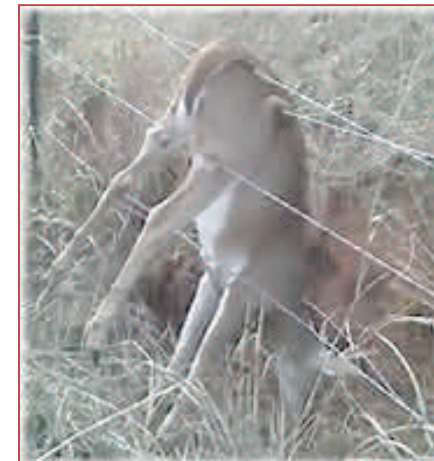
Kellie Landers

541-213-4411

Jim Smith

Deschutes County Juvenile Community Justice

541-322-7653



Wildside's 2016 orphaned fawns



Five gallon bucket in this picture gives prospective as to size of these 1 week old twin fawns



As you can see the bottle board can only accommodate six fawns at a time. In this case that leaves 5 hungry fawns to deal with while the first 6 get fed. Hungry fawns are rude! Several times a day these guys were sorted into two shifts each feeding. In this picture, all are full and closed in the stall for the night. When the tiny ones first come to us, they must be taught to expect a bottle which requires one on one handling and a LOT of patience. As soon as possible, they are taught to use the bottle board

thereby reducing their dependence upon their provider.

When they are weaned, they are transferred to a different Wildside facility. separated forever from their "mommy". From then on, we try to limit human interaction as much as possible.

Despite our efforts, orphaned fawns never revert to being completely wild. We are so thankful to have the perfect release site! Their new home is on 1500 acres of "Wildlife Preserve" property, in an incredibly beautiful canyon northwest of Sisters.



Same fawns about three months later! They are very near ready to release.



Two weeks before our planned release date, we park the trailer in a gate opening of the fawn enclosure. They are then fed in the trailer. When release day arrives, the fawns are completely relaxed in the trailer. The last two days, we practice closing the trailer doors while they are in the trailer.



Most of the past release days have proven that the very best plans are likely to be foiled

when working with wild animals. But the 2016 release went perfectly! The fawns loaded themselves, we shut the doors and off we went! We have learned from experience that fawns will stay quiet as long as the trailer is moving, maybe because they have to concentrate on balancing to stand. With this in mind, we had the truck hooked up the night before and we were ready to move out as soon as they were loaded. On the way, we met the few people with whom we wanted to share the experience in a designated parking lot. While we waited for everyone to get there, Sandy drove the fawns around the parking lot because we know that if the trailer stops, the fawns get restless and do dumb things.



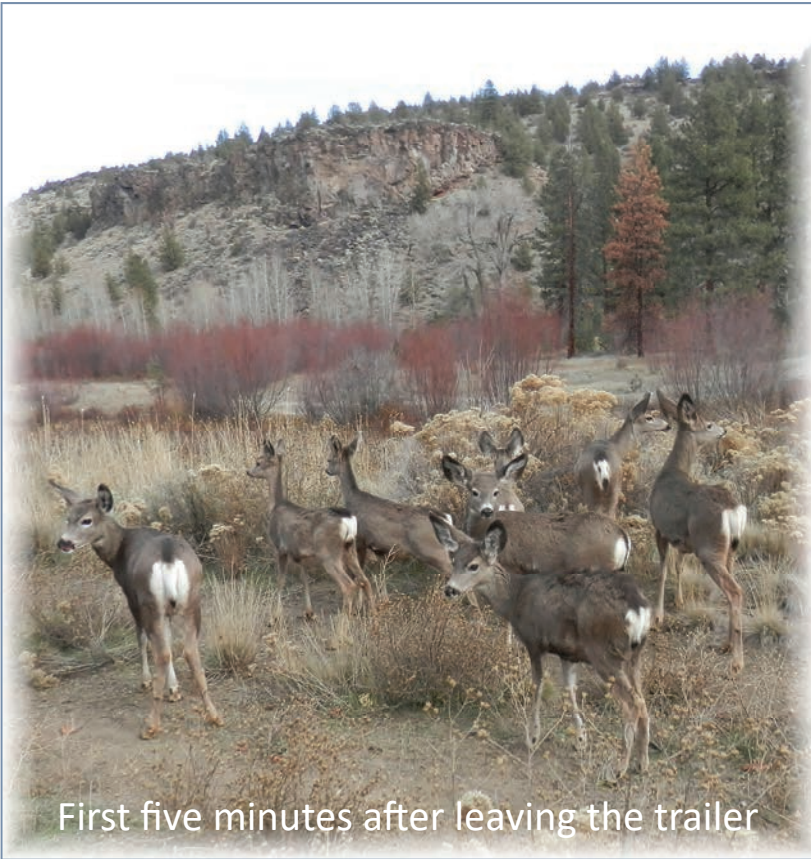
Getting down into this canyon with a trailer is a bit harrowing. We all heave a sigh of relief when we get the fawn down safely.

Every year (it never gets old) when we

open the trailer door and watch the fawns cautiously emerge from the trailer to their freedom, emotion runs rampant. This is our reward.

The fawns always react to the vast expanse around them with reluctance. They cling to us, sometimes they consider getting back in the trailer. So we go there knowing that we need to walk with them for a few hours while they gain confidence. It is a thrill to watch them slowly begin to explore.



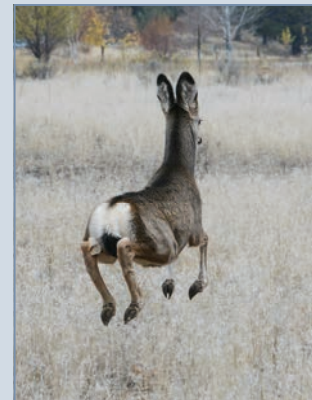


First five minutes after leaving the trailer

At first the movement is very measured, drawing courage from us as we walk. And then we see them begin to rely on each other as they explore their new home. It usually takes about two hours for us to finally see them realize their freedom. They start to separate into groups of 2 or 3 and trot off in different directions.



And then there are fawns frolicking everywhere!



Now, we need to sneak away. We wait until they are distracted with their new world to leave.

Sometimes we have to try leaving without them several times but this year we were able to make a fast get-away. We will never get to see the fine antlers on our bucks. We will never know if our baby does have babies of their own. As we drive out of the canyon, we share a bittersweet feeling of accomplishment and hope for their survival.

Wildside's 2016/2017 orphaned raccoons



2016 presented us with a very different raccoon experience. Usually most of our raccoon babies come to us when they are very young and we bottle feed them. This creates a very strong bond between baby and rehabber, one that is difficult to break. Consequently we are not able to release them in the fall because their wild instincts have not kicked in yet and they are too friendly to humans. We keep them over the winter to mature. By the spring, they big and strong and no longer friendly.

This year all 12 of our orphaned baby raccoons came to us just old enough that their wild instincts told them not to trust us enough to take a bottle from us. They still needed milk and they still needed us to teach them to eat. So we did the best we could providing milk formula via soaked dog food. Trying to get a hostile coons to eat solid food before they would naturally have been nearly weaned is a challenge!

So we had a whole bunch of cranky coons in the fall that we judged to be ready for release. The crate pictured here had been installed in the raccoon enclosure for them to use as a "den" and for us to us as a coon transport container. The crate door was held open in a way that we could quickly close it on unsuspecting raccoons. Handles were put on both sides of the crate so that we could carry the crate full of coons. The first 5 raccoons cooperated and two of us were able to carry approximately 150 pounds of pissed off (literally) coons to the truck and take them to be released.



The weather report promised at least 10 good weather days in October so we took our 5 volunteers deep into a remote forest where there is ample access to water. We left them food for a few days. The 10 good weather days would give them time to find a den and get used to hunting in their new territory.





Unlike our fawns, when we release the raccoons,
they take off. They never look back.
No thank you.
No nothin'.



Fatso

The plan was to release the other 7 raccoons the following week. (These will weigh more!) This would require 2 trips. We reinstalled the crate. Nobody would get in it. Waited a few days and still not one coon gets in the crate, which is the only bed (den) they have. Us rehabbers decided there must have been a fear message left by the pissed off travelers. So the crate was uninstalled, taken out of the enclosure, scrubbed with bleach and then reinstalled. (the word "installed" applies here because anything in a coon enclosure must be securely tied in place or tomorrow it won't be where you left it.)

Still not one raccoon will go in the crate. Not relishing the RACCOON RODEO facing us, we waited another week. And then something came up we could not go for another week. By that time our lovely winter set in. Not only would we not release raccoons in such diverse weather...they still refused to get in the crate!

When the temperature went below 20 degrees all the way to zero, the raccoons huddled on top of the dreaded crate but would not go in. So we took the crate out and replaced it with a different "den". They got right in and went to sleep.

So...they are still with us. The catch crate will be reinstalled in a few days in hopes that 4½ months will somehow change their opinion.

wanna bet?



Raccoons love raw pumpkin so we put the word out that we wanted pumpkins after Halloween.

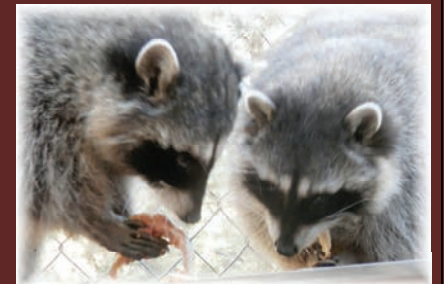
Our neighbors took us serious and brought us about 400 pounds of giant pumpkins.



The little darlings
in the replacement den.



Growing raccoons require a lot of high protein food. We feed them raw fish, chicken and venison. They eat skin, head and bones. They also get premium dry dog food, grapes, eggs and apples. Our 12 raccoons ate 5 pounds of dry dog food a day plus they each got one piece of chicken, a fish or a piece of venison the size of the thigh in this coon's mouth. Every day they also got fruit or eggs. They eat eggs, shell and all.



IF YOU HAVE *SLIGHTLY OUT DATED CHICKEN, FISH OR GAME*
IN YOUR FREEZER PLEASE SEND IT OUR WAY!



Wildside's little guys

When we take in a neonate, they are nurtured in our homes. This is because they need to be fed every 2-3 hours around the clock. An exception to this might be fawns over 2 weeks old. Until they are ready for a cage, we use various sizes of these units (donations appreciated) with a heat pad under them. →



Chipmunks



Douglas Squirrels



Raccoons



Cottontail Rabbits



Gray Squirrels



When the squirrels are weaned, they move into this building. There are 3 stalls like the one pictured on the right which are connected by windows that can open the whole space to all inhabitants or be divided to separate animals by species or age. Each stall has an opening to the outside enclosure that can be open or closed depending upon the need. The cage attached to the building is for soft release. It opens into one of the stalls. When it is time to set squirrels and chipmunks free, this cage is opened and they can run in and out for a while until they are able to find food and water in their natural habitat.



Outside portion of squirrel building



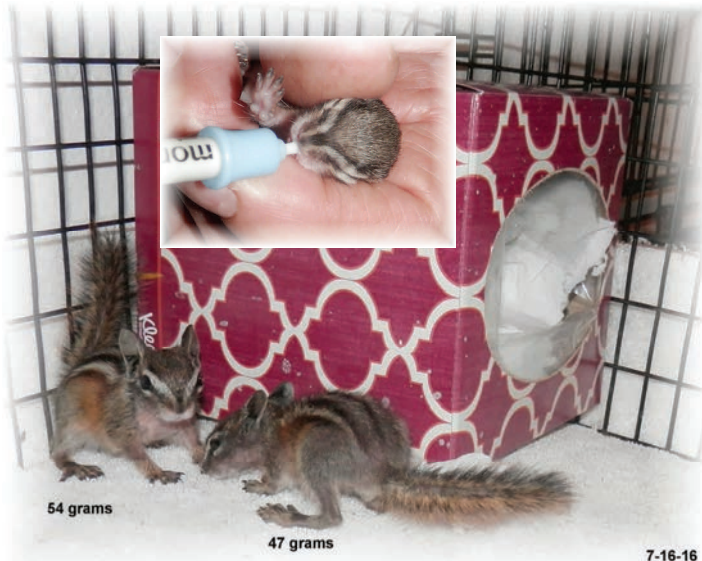
Baby Pine Squirrel (also called Douglas Squirrel) learning to eat solid food. Needed a bath after this meal!



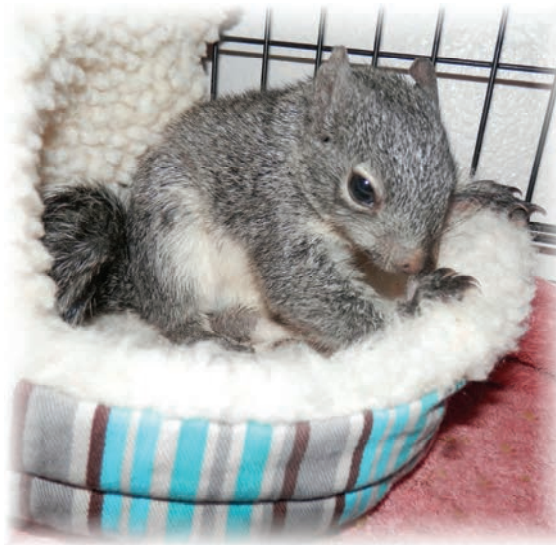
Flying Squirrel



One of many bunnies raised by our bunny expert. Orphaned rabbits are very difficult to save. Their environment must be very quiet because they easily die of fright. Keep this in mind if you need to take one to a rehabber



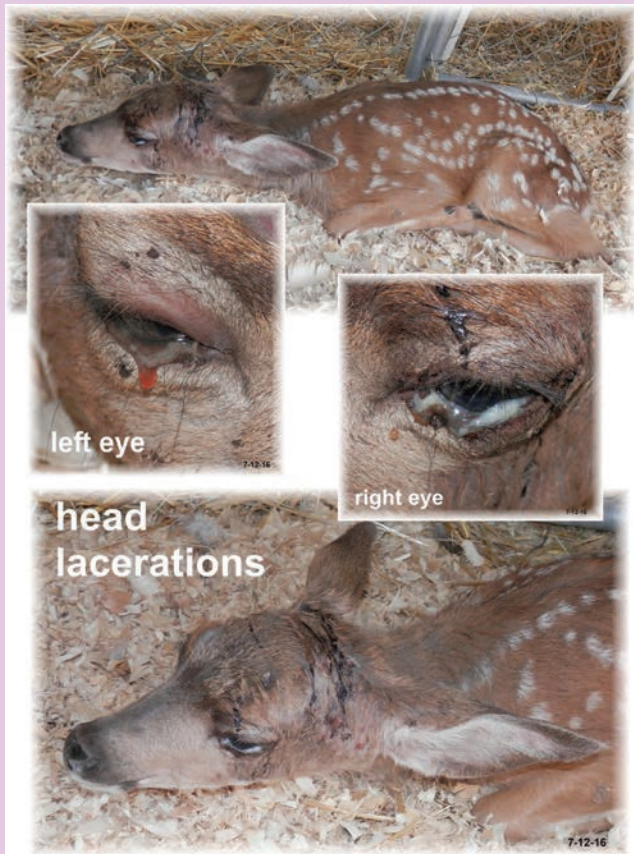
Baby Chipmunks weaned and ready to go out to the Nut House to grow up big enough to release.



Baby Gray Squirrels love these little beds. Donations gratefully received!



Baby Marmots must be wintered over with us so they can hibernate and be released in the spring.



Keep your dogs contained. Do not let them run in the desert or forest, especially in the spring. Keep your dog in your own yard.

This fawn was mauled by a dog. We tried very hard to save her but the damage was so bad we finally had to euthanize her.

We were able to heal her eyes and superficial wounds but the puncture wounds you can see in this picture became infected despite our efforts to flush them with antibiotics. The autopsy revealed what we could not have known—the the dog bites had penetrated her brain. Nothing was going to save this poor baby.



Most animals we try to save are injured or orphaned because of human irresponsibility or intervention.

- Hit by a car ● Caught in a fence ● Poisons & Insecticides ● Lead Poisoning
- Habitat loss or Invasion ● Attack by uncontained domestic pets



If not for those of you who are so kind as to bring us injured or orphaned wild animals, so many would die a hard long death. Thank you! You are true heroes!



Bats are beneficial to Human Beings

A nursing mother bat can eat more than her body weight nightly (up to 4,500 insects).

A single bat can eat up to 1000 mosquitoes in a single hour!

Bats are one of the world's longest-lived mammals for its size, with life spans of almost 40 years.

There is much to know about Bats but for the purpose of this Newsletter, our focus is the necessary knowledge you need to protect Bat babies from being injured or killed. Most of the time a colony of bats make their home in places that do not bother humans. But sometimes they will choose our dwelling to raise their babies. It is important to know about Bat habits so that you do not selfishly remove them without regard to their well being.

Dates for maternity season

The exact dates of bat maternity seasons in the U.S. vary according to the climate. Warmer states have an earlier maternity season, and cooler states have a slightly later maternity season. The dates vary between mid-April to early June for the beginning of the maternity season and mid to late August for the end of the maternity season. By the end of the bat maternity season, all of the pups born in the spring will be able to fly and they will go with mom to find food.

LittleBrown Bat (Myotis) Maternity Season: June 1 - August 15

Big Brown Bat Maternity Season: June 1 - August 15

Mexican Free Tail Bat Maternity Season: May 20 - August 10

Evening Bat Maternity Season: April 20 - July 15

If you have bats in your home or building, they are female bats. Only female bats form colonies, and they enter a home or building so that they will have a place to have their babies. Each female bat has only one baby, or pup, at a time. The pups are unable to fly for several months; the mothers can carry the pups when they fly, but the babies soon grow too large and heavy to be carried. Most of the time, the pups are left in the roost while the mothers go out and get food.

Safe Removal Removing bats from a home or building involves installing exclusion devices at the bat entry points. These are one-way devices, so the bats can exit, but they cannot return through the device. Only the adult bats fly out at night; therefore, the removal works only on the adult bats. If there are flightless baby bats in the roost, they are stuck in there without their mothers to feed them.

Pay Attention To Your Timing

There are multiple reasons why you should never remove bats during the maternity season. The first reason is that it is illegal. Bats are a protected

species due to the benefits they provide by eating insects and pests. Occasionally, there are special circumstances where an order is provided by the state allowing for the removal of the bats during the maternity season, but these orders are not given in ordinary situations. If you remove bats during the maternity season without a special permit, then you can be prosecuted and heavily fined.

Another reason why you should not remove bats during the maternity season is that it is inhumane. The babies are unable to get food during the maternity season because they cannot fly. If you remove the mothers and block their access to the roost, then the babies are going to starve to death. This is not only cruel and inhumane, but it can also cause bigger problems for you.

Some of the mother bats may be relentless in their search for another way into your home or building to get to their babies. They could get in through gaps or cracks that might have been missed when setting up the exclusion devices. They might also try getting in through open doors and windows, and gain entry to the living or working areas of the home or building. The trauma of having a colony of mother bats rush through your open door desperately searching for their babies is not something you want to experience.

Baby Safety

As the babies will be starving, they are likely to crawl down walls and into the living areas of the building. They are very small, and they can easily get through cracks and gaps. As they are searching for food, they could end up spread out all through your home or building. Additionally, many are likely to die within the walls as they try to find food. Most bat colonies contain a minimum of perhaps 40 female bats, which means 40 babies, as each mother will have one pup per season. That means you could end up with the stench of 40 or more dying animals in your house. Not only will the smell be horrific, but it also increases the risk of infestations as other organisms feed on the decaying bodies.

To eliminate all of the potential problems, and avoid prosecution and fines, you will need to wait until the end of the maternity season to remove the bats. While you are waiting for the end of the maternity season, mid to late August, you can prepare for the removal. You should observe the roof of your home or building in the evening to see where the mother bats are exiting. You can examine the eaves, ridge caps, fascia boards, and any other area of your roof that may be the entry point. Bats only need a gap of $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch to squeeze through, so you will need to be thorough in your search. Exclusion devices can be installed to allow the bats to exit and to prevent their re-entry, and after a few days, you can seal up all of the entry points.

For more information: <http://batsintheattic.org/index.html>



What should you do if you find an orphaned or injured bat?

First, in many areas of the country, bats are known carriers of rabies. Rabies is a virus that can be transmitted to any mammal from any other mammal by way of contact with saliva and bodily fluids. Rabies is always fatal. Before handling a bat, always wear heavy gloves. If you've found an adult bat with an injury, that animal needs to get into professional hands as soon as possible. This is especially true if a cat has gotten ahold of the bat. Bacteria in a cat's saliva can cause sudden, severe infection in small critters. Without professional intervention, that bat will die from a cat bite. And, if the bat bites the cat-the cat may have contracted rabies.

Generally, bats are not aggressive creatures. In fact they are quite shy and timid. Contrary to what you may have heard, bats do not attack people. Nor do they swoop down and get tangled in your hair. They may occasionally fly alarmingly near in pursuit of a mosquito or fly, giving the appearance of a swooping attack, but you can rest assured that they were only trying to catch their dinner. Bats are actually beneficial to humans in many ways.

Please don't let fear of rabies stop you from saving a bat. Just be careful. A shoebox works well. Hold the bottom of the box with one hand and use the box top to scoop the bat into the box. Rubber band or tape the box shut. Poke a couple of tiny holes in the box top. Get this package to the rehabber as fast as you can



Call Wildside's Bat rehabber.

Sandy Thompson 541-610-9962

Sandy has had full series of Rabies Vaccine



Baby bats are often discovered after a homeowner has taken it upon themselves to eliminate a bat infestation. With the adult bats removed, homeowners often don't think about the babies. A day or so later, the little bats are discovered causing a ruckus in the attic.

Shouldn't we leave the baby bat for the mother to find? This is a good idea if you've discovered the baby bat in the woods; however if this bat is from your home, you'll want to consider the advice of a professional wildlife remover as well as a rehabilitator. If the baby bat is found out in the forest, you can attempt to replace the bat in or near the roost. An injured adult bat should go to a rehabber regardless of where it is found.

Try to keep the box containing the bat warm until you get it to a rehabber. Temperature is very important. Most young bats cannot regulate their own temperatures.

Most of the time some level of dehydration is present in a distressed mammal. For this reason, getting the bat to a rehabber as soon as possible is advised.

What to do if you find a wild animal orphaned or in distress:


Before you do anything, the optimal thing to do is to call a rehabber. The rehabber needs to talk to you to ascertain the situation, the species, the location and the problem. He/she will ask you questions to determine the species and it's age and whether or not the animal needs help. It may be that what you are witnessing is perfectly normal and your intervention will become the problem.

We realize that there will be situations that make the above advice impossible, in which case you will need to make a common sense decision. If this is the case, here are some guidelines on how to proceed:

Until you are able to reach a wildlife authority:

Before rescuing **adult wildlife** seek guidance from a wildlife rehabilitator.

- 1. Prepare a container** Place a soft cloth on the bottom of a cardboard box with a lid or a cat/dog carrier. If it does not have air holes, make some. For very small animals and birds you can use a paper bag with air holes in it.
- 2. Protect yourself** Wear gloves, if possible. Some animals may bite or scratch to protect themselves. Wild animals commonly have parasites (fleas, lice, ticks) and/or carry diseases.
- 3. Cover the animal with a light sheet or towel.** Stress and fear can kill a wild animal, especially rabbits.
- 4. Gently pick up the animal and put it in the prepared container.**
- 5. Warm the animal if the weather is cold or if the animal is chilled.** Put one end of the container on a heating pad set on low. Or fill a zip-top plastic bag, a plastic bottle with a screw top, or a rubber glove with hot water. Wrap the warm container with cloth and put it next to the animal. Make sure the warm container does not leak, or the animal will get wet and chilled.
- 6. You **do not** want release an wild animal in your home or car!** Rubber band or tape the container shut.
- 7. Note exactly where you found the animal.** This will be important when it is time to release the animal.
- 8. Keep the animal in a warm, dark, quiet place. *Don't give it food.* Leave it alone, don't handle or bother it.**
- 9. Contact a rehabber or a State Wildlife Agency, or a licensed Wildlife Veterinarian as soon as possible.**
Don't keep the animal at your home longer than necessary. **Wash your hands after contact with the animal. Use bleach to wash everything that came in contact with the animal (towel, jacket, pet carrier, gloves) to prevent the spread of disease or parasites to you or your pets.**
- 10. Get the animal to a wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.** It is against the law to keep wildlife unless you are licensed to do so.



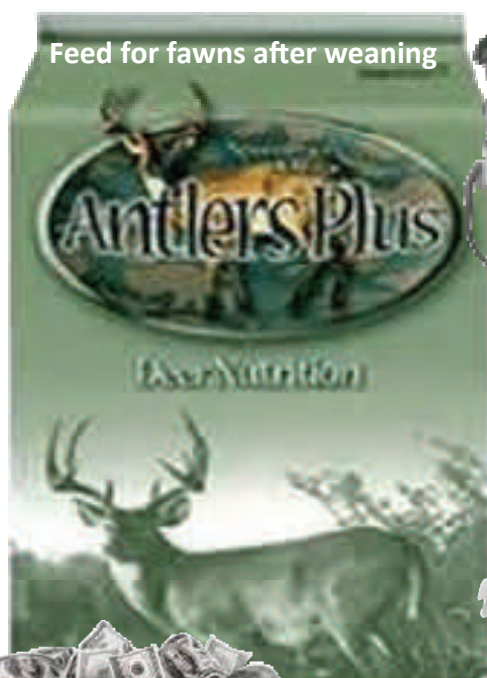
A baby's best chance
for survival is it's mother.

Feeding wild animals
the wrong food can kill
or deform them.



OK...SO HERE IS THE COMMERCIAL

None of the Licensed Rehabilitators listed on the next page are paid for what they do for the animals. We do what we do out of a passion for the critters. The facilities we have built were financed by generous donors, grants and mostly by ourselves. We were the laborers who built our facilities. The animals are very expensive to feed, worm, vaccinate and medicate. Can you help?



Feed for fawns after weaning



milk formula for fawns



wormer



for fawns after weaning



Milk formula for Squirrels



Raw meat, fish & game for carnivore mammals and raptors



Screening for enclosures ● Building materials for flights & cages ● special material for housing birds & raptors

Call a rehabber
ask them what they need

Wildlife Rehabilitators

For assistance and guidance regarding: orphaned wildlife ~ sick or injured wildlife ~ wildlife in distress

A licensed wildlife rehabilitator is limited by law to hold and treat **only** animals under 50 pounds and less than one year old.

THINK WILD CENTRAL OREGON

Birds & Mammals

HOT LINE 541-241-8060

WILDSIDE REHABILITATION, INC

Judy Niedzwiecke **Mammals**

541-389-6012

Sandy Thompson **Mammals**

541-610-9962

Tracy Leonhardy **Mammals**

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Kim Farasyn

Birds & Mammals

Crooked River 541-420-7245

Cheryl J. Rorabeck

Birds & Mammals

Cell 541-993-2249 Work 541-382-9262

Robin Gold

Birds & Mammals

INFORMATION 541-719-8222

Gary Landers

Raptors

541-213-4411 or 541-408-0863

Elise Wolf

Birds

Sisters 541-728-8208

SUN RIVER NATURE CENTER

Birds & Mammals

Manager Jennifer Curtis

1-541-593-4394

Naturalist Kody Osborne

541-593-4394

Agencies

For assistance with:

vehicle/animal collision
sick or injured large animals

Bend Police Department

541-388-0170

Deschutes County Sheriff

541-693-6911

LaPine Police Department

541-536-1753

Deschutes County

Animal Control

541-388-6655

Oregon State Police

541-386-4466

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF
FISH & WILDLIFE**

ODFW Office 541-388-6363

Cory Heath 541-388-6017

Randy Lewis 541-388-6012



IF YOU FIND A WILD ANIMAL THAT IS SO BADLY INJURED THAT THE HUMANE THING TO DO IS TO EUTHANISE RATHER THAN SUFFERING A LONG PAINFUL DEATH, YOU CAN TAKE IT TO THE ANIMAL EMERGENCY CENTER. THEY WILL EUTHANISE THE ANIMAL AT NO CHARGE.

1245 SE 3rd St ~ C3 in Bend (541) 385-9110
Check their website for hours:

<http://bendanemalemergency.com>

ER is only open nights & holidays. Ask your vet if he/she will offer this free service. PLEASE Let us know who says yes.