

DO YOUR PART

Even though wild babies are cute and cuddly, they are wild animals. Hard as it may seem, we should not interrupt the natural processes of nature. Do your part to help animals in the wild!



“Let us permit nature to have her way: she understands her business better than we do.”

Michel de Montaigne

For more information contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources office nearest you.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
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Springfield, IL 62702-1271

Office of Law Enforcement
Phone (217) 782-6431
(Regulations & Permit information)

REGIONAL OFFICES

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Region 3

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Region 2

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Region 4

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<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/wildlife/>

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Illinois Department of Natural Resources

STOP! LOOK! and LISTEN!

Are you staying tuned to the environment around you?

Every minute of the day can be a rewarding learning lesson which teaches us about nature.

This experience can be wonderful and joyful but also can be full of aches and pains.



WILD BABIES

Every spring many wild baby animals are born. What do you do if you discover a wild baby animal that appears to be alone? Do not try to capture the wild baby animal. Leave the area. More than likely the mother has gone out to look for food and will be back to care for her young. It is highly likely that the adult animal is watching and is waiting for you to leave so it can feed its young.

Several species have many young. This helps ensure that enough young will grow up to replace their parent. Many wild animals will die of disease, predation and starvation before they are one year old. If all the young wild animals lived, there would be too many animals for the land to support.



INJURED ANIMALS

When you are outside observing nature, you may come upon an injured animal. The only time you should deal with an injured animal is if it is endangering a human. Don't try to handle the animal yourself! Contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Division of Law Enforcement for assistance in locating a rehabilitator near you.



IT'S THE LAW

The Illinois Wildlife Code contains laws which protect natural resources, regulate the harvest of game species and specify fines for the illegal harvest or possession of natural resources. For instance, it is illegal to possess animals and parts of animals such as nests, eggs and feathers unless taken legally by hunting or as authorized in a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Nature centers and schools that have animal displays have obtained both state and federal permits allowing possession of those animals for educational purposes.

People that care for injured wild animals are also required by law to have a wildlife rehabilitation permit. Those same laws require that the wild animals be returned to the wild as soon as they are well.

