



1213 Brick Avenue, Red Wing, MN 55066 • 651-388-5286 • rbhspets.org

Wild Animals

We are licensed to care for domestic animal only but we do frequently get calls about wild animals. Most often we will refer these calls to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Roseville.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (WRC)

2530 Dale St. N

Roseville, MN 55113

(651) 486-9453

Any animal that is clearly injured or that have been attacked by a cat should be brought to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. In the case of baby animals, however, they most often should be left alone.

Fawns (Baby Deer): For the first few weeks of life fawns cannot keep up with their mother. Their main defense is to lay still where she told them to and not move. Fawns also have the advantage of having little to no scent. Though if you see a fawn that has been crying loudly in a field for over an hour and no mother in sight responding then you can call WRC at the number listed above.

Rabbits: In the spring and summer rabbits often have their litters in people's gardens or yards. People who discover the nest in their garden will often think the bunnies have been abandoned because they don't see the mother rabbit tending the nest through the day. In reality the baby bunnies are not abandoned because the mother only visits the nest at night and doesn't stay around for very long. she will visit the nest once or twice in 24 hours. Once the bunnies are weaned after a few weeks you may see small rabbits that are about the size of a large Kiwi bouncing around your yard and staying hidden for the most part under your shrubs. These rabbits, though small, are completely independent and are self-sufficient. Their mother is already off at a different nesting site having a new batch of rabbits. The small juvenile rabbits practice foraging and evading predators. Like the fawn they first adopt the "stay still and the predator won't see me" until they grow to a size where they could possibly evade predators by sprinting. However if a cat has brought you a rabbit of any size it should be brought to WRC for treatment because the bacteria in a cat's mouth is deadly to most wildlife.

Birds: Another stressful sight is when you see a baby bird that has fallen out of the nest. If the bird is featherless and defenseless it should be placed back in the nest if you can locate it. If the nest is destroyed and you know exactly where it was before you can make a makeshift nest out of a margarine container with holes drilled in the bottom for drainage. Fill the container with wadded up paper towels as nesting material and secure the “nest” back in the tree as close to the original nest was located. If you can’t get the nest back close enough to the original site the parents might not recognize the chicks in the new location as theirs. If this is the case the chicks should be brought to the WRC. If the bird has feathers and is out of the nest hopping around (i.e. Robins) it can be left on the ground. Robins leave the nest before they can actually fly. Robins flight feathers cannot develop in the crowded nest they are hatched in. They will grow these feathers while they are on the ground. The parents are around and keeping an eye out for danger and they teach their young how to find food while their young learn how to fly. In about a week they will fly away and be independent.

Squirrels: Squirrels will also fall out of the nest they have in a tree. You can leave the baby squirrel at the base of the tree where they fell from and the mother will come down when it is safe to collect her young. However if it becomes dark and the parent has not retrieved their young you can get the squirrels and place them in a container with a towel at the bottom. Do not attempt to feed or water them. Bring the squirrels to WRC as soon as you can the next day.

Raccoons: Raccoons will sometimes move into your attic or under your porch because it’s a warm and convenient place to have their babies. If you have raccoons and want them removed hire a pest control agent to remove the animal. They will also recommend that you block up the entrance they used to get into your home because removal of the raccoons will just open up vacancy for another coon family to move in. Abandoned raccoon kids should be brought into the wildlife rehab center. Be sure though to use precautions to not be bit by them as raccoons can transmit rabies. Raccoons should never be kept as pets because they can become destructive to property and aggressive towards strangers as they grow older.

Skunks: Skunks are another animal that can cause problems for people when they move into your shed or under porches. They can carry rabies and should be removed from your yard. The wildlife rehab center does not deal with skunks so you would have to hire a professional to remove the skunk. As with raccoons, you should bar entry into your porch or shed to deter another skunk family from moving in.