



## **White tailed Deer Fawns**

Each year many white tailed deer fawns are brought to wildlife facilities because they are found without a mother in sight and thought to be orphaned.

The following are some helpful facts about white- tailed fawns to hopefully prevent unnecessary human intervention:

- \* Although most fawns are born in late May and early June, newborns have been spotted as late as September.
- \* Birth weight is about 5 pounds.
- \* Fawns are left in protective cover for up to 3 weeks of age.
- \* The Doe returns 2-8 times per day to feed her fawn, but she may not return if you are within sight.
- \* Most yearling does have only one fawn.
- \* Twins are common. The Doe separates them shortly after birth.
- \* Fawns will begin to follow the Doe about 2-3 weeks of age.
- \* If a fawn has been touched by humans, the Doe will continue to care for it.
- \* A Doe will accept a missing fawn up to 48 hours.
- \* Fawns do not digest cow's milk very well and may dehydrate quickly from diarrhea.
- \* Up to 2 weeks of age, the Doe stimulates the fawn to eliminate by grooming
- \* Although fawns may continue to nurse up to 6 months of age, they may be weaned after 8 weeks of age when their rumen becomes fully functional.

\* Deer are herd animals

\* Fawns that have been raised with only human contact, imprint on humans and may become dangerous when sexual maturity develops.

**\*\*\*Signs of a Fawn in Need of Veterinary Care\*\*\***

\* Fly eggs (look like rice) are seen on the fawns fur, especially around the tail

\* A dead mother is found

\* The fawn has been hit by a mower or a car

\* The fawn has been attacked by another animal

**\*\*Contact Your Veterinary Care Facility Before Transporting\*\***

---

**PHONE NUMBERS**

TN Wildlife Resource Agency 1-800-332-0900

---

Wildlife Rehabilitation- It is against state and federal law to keep wild animals. Wildlife Rehabilitators are licensed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to care for animals until such time they can be released back into the wild. No one without a license should keep any wild animal captive. Wild animals require special diets and care, and pose hidden dangers such as the risk of disease to people. Wildlife Rehabilitators attend workshops sponsored by national organizations such as the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association or the International Wildlife Rehabilitators Council to further their knowledge. Most Rehabilitators are unpaid volunteers.