

Deer Fawns: Late May to early June is the peak of fawning season. Between birth and about 6 weeks of age, fawns don't travel much with the doe. Instead they curl up and lie still on the ground when the doe is not there to feed them. During the first 6 weeks of life, this is often a fawn's instinctive response to danger as well – drop and lie still. Their lack of scent and spotted coat help them hide from predators. Sometimes this instinctive response to danger causes them to drop and lay flat in the middle of the road or peoples' yards. A healthy, uninjured fawn is programmed to just stay still and wait for the doe to come back for it.

Fawns found curled in a ball by themselves at this time of year are most likely not hurt, orphaned or abandoned. They are just waiting for the doe to return and collect them. The best course of action is to leave the fawn where it is and let the doe reunite with her fawn. This might take until dark or even up to 24 hours later if the doe has been spooked.

If you see a fawn lying on the ground ask yourself 4 questions before trying to move the fawn or calling for help...

- 1) Is there a dead doe nearby?
- 2) Is the fawn in immediate danger (for example lying in the middle of the road or where dogs can find it)?
- 3) Has the fawn been crying without a doe responding for at least 3 hours?
- 4) Is the fawn bleeding, has it been attacked by another animal or is it lying sprawled on its side instead of curled in a ball?

If the answer to these questions is “no”, leave the fawn alone, and give it at least 24 hours to reunite with the doe. The fawn is probably okay. If the fawn is in immediate danger such as lying in the road, or in a yard, then get the fawn out of the immediate danger zone. Carry it to the closest spot of tall grass or brush and leave it alone. Keep kids and dogs away from it. Don't take it home. The fawn is probably just fine and only needs time and quiet to get reunited with its mother.

If the answer to any of the above questions is “yes” contact the Resource Management Division at 878-7101 or the Wildwoods Wildlife Rehabilitation facility in Duluth at 218-491-3604 for assistance.