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Leave Young Wildlife Alone: If You Care Leave Them There

Cute baby bunnies are a staple of Easter, but taking young rabbits out of your yard and into your home will likely do more harm than good. Well-meaning people often put young wildlife's health in danger when they intervene in a wild animal's natural process of growing up.

As people begin to garden and play in their yards this spring, they may stumble upon young bunnies, fawns and fledgling birds mistakenly thought to be abandoned. The natural response for most people will be to help, but in the majority of cases, one or both parents is a short distance away searching for food and will only return when the coast is clear.

"Wild parents can't hire a babysitter, so most young animals spend a lot of time on their own well before they can fend for themselves," said Falyn Owens, extension biologist at the Wildlife Commission. "When the mother returns, sometimes many hours later, she expects to find her young where she left them."

Owens advises that if you truly feel the animal needs help, the best thing you can do is leave it alone (or put it back) and call a wildlife rehabilitator for advice.

Rabbits Newborn rabbits (kits) spend their first few weeks hiding in plain sight, in shallow holes tucked among clumps of thick grass, under shrubs, or in the middle of open lawns. Rabbit nests can be hard to spot, often resembling a small patch of dead grass. Female rabbits (or does) actively avoid their nests, only visiting once or twice a day for a few minutes, to avoid attracting the attention of hungry predators.

"We hear from concerned people every spring who say they've found an abandoned nest of bunnies, when in fact the kits are just fine and quietly waiting for the doe to return," Owens said. "If they appear to be healthy and unharmed, the best thing you can do is to cover up the nest and walk away. The mother won't return until well after you have left the area."



Fawns Newborn deer also spend nearly all their time hiding for the first few weeks of their life. After nursing, the doe gives a signal and her fawns instinctively split up to find a quiet place to lay down and stay put. They will usually stay curled up for several hours while the doe ventures away to feed. Fawns rely on a dappled coat and no scent, which make it difficult for predators to find them.

If you find a fawn that is calm and appears uninjured, leave it be and check on it the next day. If it is still there and bleating loudly, appears thin, injured or has visible diarrhea, contact a licensed fawn rehabilitator for advice.

"If a fawn has already been moved from where it was found but only a little time has passed, return it immediately," Owens said. "A doe will usually try to find her missing fawn for about 48 hours before she gives up. After 48 hours have passed, or the fawn has been given any food, contact a fawn rehabilitator as soon as possible."

Songbirds Knowing the difference between a nestling and a fledgling can help you make the right decision if you see a young bird on the ground. Nestlings don't have their feathers yet and can't survive outside of their nest for long. Fledglings have their feathers and are able to walk, hop, or fly short distances; they might appear helpless, but have already left the nest are being cared for by the parents - typically at a distance.

"If you find a nestling on the ground, return it to the nest as quickly as possible, if you're able to find it," Owens said. "If the entire nest has fallen, you can place it back in the tree, or even construct a makeshift nest."

Fledglings, however, should be left alone in most cases. They are busy with the important tasks of learning to fly and survive on their own. If a fledgling isn't obviously injured or in any immediate danger, leave them to it. Like human toddlers, young birds need tons of practice to gain the muscles and coordination to become graceful adults. Keeping cats inside and dogs on leash are the best way to assure these young birds make it through this vulnerable learning stage.

Obey the Law Leaving young wildlife alone is not only part of being a responsible steward of nature, but it is also the law. "Taking most wild animals out of the wild and into your possession is illegal," Owens said. "The chances that a young wild animal will survive in human care are slim at best. Even those that live long enough to be released won't have developed the skills to survive on their own."

Owens also stresses the importance of never feeding young wildlife, which can lead to irreversible harm, and is often fatal for the animal. "When in doubt, contact a professional before you do anything," she advises. "Each spring, wildlife rehabilitators take in a lot of young that are malnourished, sick, or injured from well-meaning people trying to provide care."

And one final piece of advice: It's best to leave the animal where you found it, even if someone has picked it up or touched it. Wild parents almost never abandon their young, even if they detect human scent.

ANSON COUNTY EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM

The Anson County Emergency Food and Shelter Program will be awarded funds by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Emergency Food and Shelter Board Program. The Anson County Emergency Food and Shelter Program will receive \$9271 for Phase 39, and \$28656 for Phase ARPAP. A tentative amount of \$758 may also be allocated, if administrative expenses are not incurred. These funds will supplement emergency food and shelter programs in Anson County.

A national board including the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America; The Salvation Army; and United Way Worldwide, approved these funds.

The Phase 39 and Phase ARPAP Anson County EFSP Local Board distributes funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country. The Anson County Local EFSP Board is made up of representatives from Anson County; Anson County United Way; the local chapter of the American Red Cross; Anson County Domestic Violence; Anson County Homes of Hope; and area church and faith organizations, homeless shelters, and other organizations.

The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds made available under these phases of the EFSP program.

Under the terms of the grant from the national board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) demonstrate the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board of directors. Qualifying agencies are encouraged to apply.

The Anson County Emergency Food and Shelter Program has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously to Feed My Lambs, South Anson Community Outreach Ministry, Ebenezer Baptist Church, and Anson Crisis Ministry. These agencies provide food and hot meals to the residents of Anson County.

Qualifying public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds should contact Anson County EFSP Local Board Chair, Chipper Long, using one of the following contact methods: email at ansonhomesofhope@gmail.com, by USPS mail request to 308 East Wade Street, Wadesboro, NC, 28170, or call 704-668-4952 or 704-435-2437 for an application. Applications may be emailed or mailed. The deadline for applications to be received is May 13, 2022.



**ANSON COUNTY'S
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PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANTS (PCA)

Anson Health and Rehabilitation is a 95-bed skilled nursing facility that is seeking Personal Care Assistants (PCAs) to join our team of dedicated health care professionals! **We are currently hiring for 2nd shifts (3pm-11pm) for Full-Time and Part-Time positions.**

Applicants will be taught Nurse Aide (NA) skills upon hire and a checklist sign-off by an RN is **required** until certification is achieved. Our goal is for you to learn and perform all the necessary skills to become a Certified Nursing Assistant, and we will provide the training for you to become a Certified Nursing Assistant.

**Under the direction and supervision of the
Director of Nursing, the Personal Care Assistant (PCA)
responsibilities include, but are not limited to:**

- Supervise and assist with activities of daily living.
- Serve meals to residents and assist with feeding as needed.
- Provide person-centered care to each resident based on their individualized care plan.
- Take and record vital signs.
- Assure cleanliness and dignity of each resident.
- Perform patient care as directed by RN/LPN in a safe manner according to policy and procedure.
- Respond directly to patient requests and appropriately communicate the patient's needs.
- Assist in properly transferring residents.
- Document records of care for every assigned resident each shift.
- Assure the cleanliness and dignity of each resident.
- Possess good communication skills to interact with residents, their loved ones, and other staff members.
- All other duties as assigned.

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Please apply in person.

Anson Health & Rehabilitation

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PUBLIC LEGISLATIVE HEARING NOTICE

For the
"Town of Morven 2040 Land Use Plan" Ordinance

When:
Monday May 2, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

Where:
Hearing will be held at the
Glennie R. Bennett Community Center
207 West NC-145
Morven, NC 28119

The Town of Morven, in preparation for the effects of growth in the Town and in accordance with G.S. 160D-501, under direction of the Mayor & Town Council, have directed the Planning Board to complete preparation of a new Town Land Use Plan.

On Thursday April 28, 2022, the Town of Morven Planning Board concludes their work and votes to recommend the adoption of "Town of Morven 2040 Land Use Plan" to inform and guide decisions made by property owners, businesses, leadership and those seeking to invest in the Town.

The Mayor and Town Council of Morven invite you to attend a public legislative hearing to learn about the new plan and to share your comments. The Town's draft 2040 Plan is available for inspection at the Town Hall during normal business hours and may be viewed on the website at <https://www.townofmorven.org/> anytime.

Hearing impaired persons requiring assistance should contact the ADA Coordinator/Town Clerk Ms. Corinthia L. Lewis-Lemon at (704) 851-9321 or via email at clewislemon@townofmorven.org at least 24 hours prior to the hearing to request special accommodations.

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