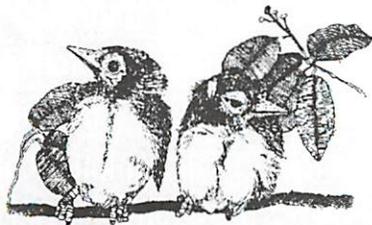


You can help wildlife in your area by:

- Keeping pets and children away from baby or young animals so their mothers can care for them.
- Learning more about wild animals' habits by visiting your local park or nature center.
- Keeping cats indoors during nesting season.
- Preventing nesting in unwanted places prior to nesting season.
- Tolerating nesting animals until the babies are grown and leave on their own.
- Keeping trash cans covered and feeding pets indoors as much as possible.
- Remembering that special permits are needed in Virginia to care for wild animals.
- Seeking the help of a wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible if you find a wild animal that needs assistance.



Consider becoming a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in your area!

Remember Your Safety



Due to the potentially higher rate of rabies infection among raccoons, foxes, skunks, bats and groundhogs, these animals should be handled only by professional veterinary, humane society, or licensed wildlife personnel.

For answers to questions regarding wildlife, or if you're interested in becoming a wildlife rehabilitation volunteer, please contact us at:



Newport News Park Discovery Center
13560 Jefferson Avenue
Newport News, Virginia 23603

(757) 886-7916 or 886-7912
www.newport-news.va.us/parks

NEWPORT NEWS PARK DISCOVERY CENTER

Wildlife Rehabilitation for Animals in Need



Caring for the orphaned and injured wild animals of Newport News for over 20 years.

City of Newport News Department
of Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

The Newport News Park Discovery Center



is a state and federally licensed facility that provides a temporary haven to orphaned or injured wildlife found throughout Newport News. The goal of the program is to return

healthy, self-sufficient wild animals to their natural environments.

The majority of funding for the program is provided by the City of Newport News, but monetary contributions and donations of household items help stretch the Center's budget. Some common items that we always seem to need are:

Clean Indoor/Outdoor Carpet
Laundry Baskets
Aquariums
Shoebboxes
Small Wading Pools
Undyed Feather Dusters



The Discovery Center Staff

provides inpatient care to over 400 injured and orphaned animals each year, answers questions concerning wildlife habits, and offers advice to area citizens concerning wildlife encounters.

The most commonly asked questions are those concerning young animals that appear orphaned or too young to be out of the nest.



Baby **squirrels** sometimes tumble from the nest, but the mother will retrieve them if everyone, including pets, stays away!

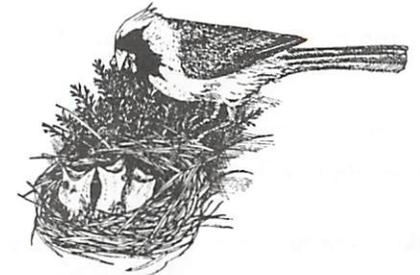
Young **birds**, called fledglings, leave the nest quite young. They spend time on the ground and in low bushes learning to fly while their parents care for them.

Young **rabbits** are often found while doing yard work. Mother rabbits do not stay at the nest but remain close. If a nest is uncovered, replace the nesting materials and leave it alone.

White-tailed **deer** fawns are left by their mothers for long periods of time. The mother is close by and watching so leave the fawn alone. If in doubt, report its location to your local wildlife agency who can check on it.

**Helping Hands are
always welcomed!**

The wildlife rehabilitation staff relies heavily on dedicated volunteers to help during the busy "baby season" from April through September. Volunteers assist with all aspects of animal care at the Center. Experience in wildlife handling is not necessary as training is provided. Please call (757) 886-7912 for more information.



In order for us to better serve the wildlife that truly needs our help, we ask you to remember that most young animals that appear abandoned have mothers close by. If you find an uninjured baby wild animal that has tumbled from its nest, it can be returned. Touching it does not cause its mother to abandon it!