

Baby Animals by Rebecca Lexa

Spring is upon us, and that means the woods and fields are full of baby animals! Some animals leave their young for periods of time, and then return to feed and care for them. Rabbits and deer hide their young in tall grass or under bushes. The young animals instinctively know to stay still if danger approaches.

Every year many young rabbits and deer are taken away from their hiding spots and turned in to wildlife rehabilitation centers. This can be so stressful that even with the best of care they often die, and those that survive cannot always be released back into the wild. If you find baby deer or rabbits, leave them where they are. Either their mothers will be back for them, or they will provide a much-needed meal for other baby animals like young foxes and bobcats.

If you find a baby bird out of its nest and it does not yet have all of its feathers, you can put it back in the nest and the parents will continue to care for it. If you can't reach the nest, nail a butter container to the tree as close to the nest as you can, put soft grass in it and set the baby in there. The parents may begin to care for both nests of babies. A larger baby bird that has all of its feathers is likely a fledgling learning to fly. Leave it where it is, as its parents are still caring for it, and you don't want to scare them away.