



FRIENDS OF WILDLIFE: Rescue, Rehabilitation, Release

Friends of Wildlife ~ Spring/Summer 2022

Our Mission

Friends of Wildlife

is an independent, non - profit (501)(c)(3), all volunteer organization dedicated to the emergency and extended care of orphaned or injured Michigan wildlife.

Our Goal is to

rehabilitate these animals in a professional manner which allows them to return to their natural habitat and continue their lives in the manner of that species, independent of humans.

We are licensed by and

have a close working relationship with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

In addition to wildlife rehabilitation, we are vitally interested in education and the broader aspects of protecting and restoring the natural habitat of the world we share.

Friends of Wildlife Endorses the high standards set by the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Association (NWRA) and the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC).

HAVE YOU SEEN AN INJURED DEER LATELY?



written by: Holly Hadac, MDNR Licensed Rehabilitator

Many people see deer that are injured and will call a wildlife rehabilitator for help. There are a few issues to consider and observation is key. There are injuries that can happen to a deer from food impaction in the jaw due to a cut in the mouth, to having an object discarded by people stuck on a part of its body, to head injuries from running into a tree. But leg injuries are the most common.

The first information I need from the caller is a description of how the deer is walking. I need to know if it is getting around on the other three legs and tell them to carefully watch the mechanics of the other legs. The deer has to be able to function normally. I have seen a few cases where the deer has two broken back legs. It can still run but won't be able to go very far, perhaps 50 feet, without collapsing. I have seen deer that can't stand up because they are so badly injured that they crawl away from people. A deer (any wild animal for that matter) should be doing everything it can to get away from us. Sometimes deer are struggling so badly that we know something else is wrong like a broken hip, back, or pelvis. If a caller is watching an injured deer that laid down and stayed there for hours, I tell them that someone has to approach this deer to see if it can get up and run from them. That is a second key point – they must get up and run. If they see the deer struggling to get up, or if it looks like it's trying to move limbs and can't, then the injuries are serious. If a deer is laying on its side it is dying.

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FOW Animal Hotline Placement & Information Have You Found an Injured or Orphaned Animal?

Call the species number listed:

Main Line.....734-548-3132
Squirrel.....734-548-3127
Raccoon..... 734-548-3128
Woodchuck 734-548-3129
Opossum.... 734-548-3130
Fox.....734-548-3132

Non- Emergency Questions

friendsofwildlifemi@gmail.com

Note: Please do not email us with emergency questions. Call the proper phone numbers listed to get emergency help!

Other Helpful Phone Numbers

Bird Center.....734-761-9640
Humane Society..734-661-3512
Raptor Rehab.....734-428-8455
Coyote Rehab.....248-672-9615
Howell Nature.....517-548-5530
Deer/Fawn.....734-645-3552
Rabbit Rehab..... 517-769-2856

Michigan DNR -

<https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/dlr/>

Have You Seen an Injured Deer Lately?

We don't like to look at them struggle, but deer can survive on three legs. There was a doe in my neighborhood years ago that was missing a back leg from the knee



down. She still had twin fawns every year. Sometimes a caller says an injured deer is just limping on one leg. People often call the police for help. Most of the time the police don't know what to do so they want to euthanize the animal. Sometimes that may be necessary, although have seen other times that is not, such as a limping deer. People have called me from the side of the road with a deer that has been hit by a car where it is not getting up and will not let the police euthanize it until they talk to a wildlife rehabilitator.

I have seen deer momentarily stunned – say five or ten minutes – but if they don't get up and run by that time they can't be helped. Please do not get too close to an injured adult deer. Their hooves are sharp and can inflict damage on you. Even when a deer is dying the last parts to stop moving are their legs. Another point to consider is if an injured doe has fawns. If the deer is functioning, it is necessary to let her raise the fawns. If it gets to the point where she cannot function, and her fawns are young enough we can take the fawns. If they are old enough where they run from us (usually over three weeks) then we can't help them. If it is a young injured fawn, including a broken leg, we can help. Fawns can heal with a splinted leg.

Injured older fawns can't be helped for several reasons. Adult deer and fawns suffer from "capture myopathy, which is simply the effect of stress on the body. Stress kills the white muscle cells in the body, which include the heart. In the case of an adult injured deer that is stressed because of an injury, adding people to that stress causes them to have a heart attack and die. In the case of a fawn, everything that is done to it that is unnatural and abnormal prior to coming into a wildlife rehabilitator's facility is a strike against it.

Have You Seen an Injured Deer Lately?



Once the white muscle cells start dying at a rapid enough rate they don't stop. We can take in a fawn that was in someone's house, with kids in the neighborhood loving it up, with it being around the family or, with it being fed an inappropriate diet and other stressors and it can be dead the next day or up to a month later. Muscle weakness is one of the first signs. We also can't catch older fawns plus

their hooves are dangerous. I've been beat up by older fawns, causing cuts and bruises. Like injured people, if a deer can rest it can heal better. I used to tell people to feed the deer even if it's just for a couple of week's so it doesn't have to look for food and water. It can rest and learn to live with this injury, but at this time the DNR does not allow us to feed deer (food plots are allowed per the "Baiting and Feeding" section on the DNR website). If there is no water source nearby you can put water out in something shallow like a plastic garbage can lid turned upside down.

Would you like to be a Friend to Wildlife?

We are always looking for people to help. Our Annual Spring Workshop had to be postponed due to the pandemic, although we would welcome inquiries to: friendsofwildlifemi@gmail.com
Once things open up again, let's see if we can find a way if you would like to contribute to the support of orphaned and injured wildlife.

Not everyone rehabs animals, some help with our website and social media presence, some transport animals to rehabbers, some work on fundraising to cover expenses or represent FOW at non-profit events in Washtenaw County. Some answer our species telephones so they don't go unanswered during vacation or illness – thank you...

THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING WITH OUR PARTNER BUSINESSES

Amazon: Go to [Smile Amazon](#) and designate Friends of Wildlife as your Charitable Organization. Be sure to shop through www.Smile.Amazon.com every time you shop and FOW will receive the benefit.

Busch's: Sign In to your [MYWay](#) account and select [Cash for Education](#) in the dropdown menu under your account number, then select Friends of Wildlife. Click Add and be sure to check Add to Future Quarters.

Kroger: Link your [Kroger Plus Card](#) to Friends of Wildlife and Kroger will donate a % of your purchase to FOW each time you use your Plus Card. Remember to renew your donation designation every year. If there are other businesses you would like to see Friends of Wildlife partner with, please let us know at – FriendsofWildlifeMI@gmail.com



FRIENDS OF WILDLIFE
P.O. BOX 1505
ANN ARBOR, MI 48106
www.friendsofwildlife.net

Will You Help?

Just as species of animals need special care in critical times of the year, the need for financial support is constant. FOW is a (501)(c)(3) all-volunteer organization which operates entirely on donations from friends like you. Each injured or orphaned animal needs special food, medicine and possible veterinary care which costs money. In these difficult times, when so many are pinched and hurting, it's easy to forget our little wildlife friends.

Please give what you can. Make your check payable to Friends of Wildlife; P.O. Box 1505, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Please visit our website: www.friendsofwildlife.net to donate through PayPal. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Thank you for Your Generosity!

Approximate Cost of Raising a Single Animal

Rabbit	\$ 25.00
Squirrel	\$ 35.00
Opossum	\$ 35.00
Turtle	\$ 50.00
Woodchuck	\$ 50.00
Raccoon	\$125.00
Fox	\$150.00
Deer	\$300.00

The amounts listed above are approximate costs related to raising an animal (or an entire litter) to date of release, although sometimes the expense is considerably more if any animals are seriously injured.



Wish List

Release sites on private land
Heating pads
Materials for building outdoor cages (wood, wire mesh, etc.)
Volunteer to help building cages
Monetary donations to help with veterinary expenses & supplies