

# Fawn Care

## So you FOUND a fawn?

DON'T REMOVE FAWNS before checking the following:

See if the fawn is in a safe spot – (i.e., not in the middle of a road, not too close to a road or in an exposed ditch, etc. If s/he is, then the fawn can be moved about 50 to 100 feet to a safer location, preferably in the woods or high grass near the woods.

Does the fawn look healthy?

- Shiny, clean coat
- Clear eyes
- Wet nose
- No discharges
- Curled up
- Resting comfortably

If yes, the fawn's healthy.

Understand that the Mom (doe) will give birth and leave the fawn. She can leave up to about 12 hours, and then come back to nurse when the fawn bleats (calls out). Bleating sounds like a baby goat (kid). When the mom hears that, she will go to the fawn within about 20-40 minutes. Just stay back and watch with binoculars. Mom is normally within a 500' radius of the fawn.

SHE IS NOT ABANDONING HER BABY. She does not want to bring attention to the fawn by being with him/her, and she needs to feed herself to generate more milk to give to the fawn. Please give Mom and the fawn space. Stay back and watch with binoculars. You can continue to check on the fawn, while keeping your distance. Mom will only be there when she has to nurse, and she comes usually when it's dark or almost dark (dawn or dusk). She nurses quickly and then leaves again.

The fawn may leave the area that day or in several days. At 2-3 weeks old, the fawn will follow Mom,

To see if the fawn is hydrated, you can pull the skin gently and it should snap right back, or you can observe or feel his belly to see if it feels full.

If, on the other hand, you determine that there is a problem:

- The fawn on his side or his legs are stretched out
- You see a dead deer on the road (check to see if the deer is a nursing female), and you believe the deer could be the mother of the fawn,
- If you see a fawn walking around calling out for more than about 40 minutes,
- Covered with insects

Those are not good signs and could indicate that something has happened to the Mom.

If you have already removed a healthy fawn, you can put the fawn back. We've had reports that the mother has returned even after a few days, but be sure to keep an eye on the fawn because the Mom's milk may have dried up by then. So put him back if you can continue to check on him.

Wildlife Watch maintains updated lists of wildlife rehabilitators across the country. If you feel that the fawn is in trouble, please call us for a wildlife rehabilitator in your area. The wildlife help and rehabilitator referral number is 1-877-WILDHELP.

**In the meantime ... here are some tips to care for a fawn:**

## **Bottle Feeding**

### ***SUPPLIES***

Supplies needed to bottle feed fawns

You will need the following supplies on hand:

Milk replacer - a calf milk powder will work, or goat's milk.

Bottles with spare nipples

Paper towels

Bottle brush

Whisk or blender

Thermometer

Funnel for filling bottles

Quart jar w/lid for mixing

Tube Feeders (if fawn won't accept bottle)

Syringes

### ***Bottle Feeding Schedule***

Note \* You may tweak this schedule ~ this is simply the schedule that I am using for my bottle babies.

Day 1-3 ~ 1-3 oz every 3-4 hours (force feeding as necessary)

Day 4-7 ~ 4 oz every 3-4 hours

Week 2 ~ 6 oz every 3-4 hours

Week 3 ~ 8 oz every 4 hours

Week 4 ~ 8 oz every 4 hours

Week 5 ~ 10 oz every 5 hours

Week 6 ~ 12 oz 3 times per day

Week 7 ~ 14 oz 2 times per day

Week 8 ~ 16 oz 2 times per day

Week 9-12 ~ 18 oz once per day

Wean shortly thereafter

The earliest you should wean is at 8 weeks. If you can keep them on a bottle longer, then it couldn't hurt to keep the fawn on until approx 12-14 weeks.

\*Note ~ when the fawn is a newborn, and trying to learn to drink from a bottle ... you may only get one or two ounces in it per feeding. During this time you will need to follow the schedule above - as well as throughout the night (every 3-4 hrs at night). Once the fawn is drinking by itself - and is up to 3 oz, it can go through the night without a bottle. When this happens - you can do your last feeding late at night (like no earlier than 10pm) and then early in the morning (approx 7-8 hrs later after the last night feeding).

***FORCE FEEDING*** ~ When a fawn is "pulled" from it's mother, or orphaned/rejected ... it will need bottle fed. However, in most cases you must force feed the fawn a bottle for atleast the first few feedings ~ until the fawn "learns" how to suck the bottle itself.

The best way I can explain how to do this - is from my own experience ...

When I force feed a fawn or goat kid ~ Here's how I do it :

Take the fawn/kid in your lap and "wrap" your right (or left) arm over top of it's back and up under it's chin. Next take your hand that's under the fawn's/kid's chin (while holding the bottle in your opposite hand) And open it's mouth with your fingers.

Plop the bottle nipple in it's mouth.

HOLD the nipple in it's mouth by wrapping your hand (the hand that you used to open it's mouth) around the nipple and the fawn's/kid's mouth opening.

Then you want to hold it there and gently squeeze the mouth on the nipple in a "nursing" motion ~ squeeze, release, squeeze, release. This will make milk flow from the nipple, as well as help teach the fawn/kid how to suck it.

*TIPS* (to help the fawn to accept the bottle) ~

Here's a few tips to encourage the fawn to accept a bottle :

1. Stroke the fawn's throat (you may need a helper to do this while you're hands are full) in a downward motion to assist the fawn to swallow the milk.
2. Have a helper "tickle" the fawn's back legs and behind area while bottle feeding it. When natural nursing takes place - the mother deer will lick their baby/s on the behind and hind legs, etc. to stimulate them and help them to nurse.
3. You can add a little (approx a Teaspoon) of plain or strawberry flavored yogurt to the bottle to give it a sweet taste.
4. Smudge a little bit of Black Strap Molasses on the nipple and let it dry a little. Don't "CAKE" it on .. you just want a thin layer. This will give the nipple a tangy sweet taste.

The best advice I can give is that you are loving, gentle and have patience and eventually the fawn will learn. There have been cases where a baby fawn or goat, etc. will completely refuse to bottle feed - and in this case, you would need to syringe feed or tube feed.

Thank God I have never had this problem ~ but it does happen.

Good Luck !

### ***GREENS***

Generally a fawn will start feeding on greens at approx. 2 weeks of age. One way to get a bottle baby started eating solid food is to take green clover or alfalfa and let them sniff and lick it until you can put it in their mouth and let them nibble,

Or you can use a small piece of Wheat bread. The yeast in it helps set up the digestive system.

What works for one doesn't always work for the next.

Make sure you ALWAYS have fresh water available from day one and keep fresh greens available.

Deer are normally browsers and eat leaves from Dogwood, Poplar, Oak, Maple, Elm, Willow, Apple trees and many more. Alfalfa and Clover's are top choice of legumes.

***STIMULATION*** ~ You must wipe the fawn's "behind" with a damp cloth or baby wipes to stimulate them to defecate and urination. Do this at each feeding until the fawn is approx. 3 weeks old.

***DIRT*** ~ You must offer black dirt in a dish (fresh every 3 days) from day one until weaned/released. There is good bacteria in the dirt that fawns need for rumen health. Get the black **\*\*unfertilized\*\*** dirt from you yard/field. It can have some sod roots in it. Do NOT use potting soil. The purpose of this is to set up their digestive system to digest the plant life in your area ... every location has a different

bacteria specific with each location.

**YOGURT** ~ Plain or Strawberry flavored yogurt can be added to the fawn's bottle for prevention/treatment of scours (diarrhea).

TIP ~ Yogurt added to the bottle can also be used to help a newborn (force fed) fawn accept it's bottle.

### ***Shelter for Fawns***

Plastic barrels work very well. cut both ends out and put them along the edge of the pen (They seem to follow the fence line) with straw inside.

Or you can make small lean-to's with plywood attached to the fence or tree and staked to the ground on the low end.

A LARGE dog box would also work.

### **Medical Issues**

#### **Bloat**

Can be determined by thumping their abdomen and listening for a hollow air sound as soon as it starts you need to back off the formula a little and start putting baby gas drops in the bottle every time you feed,

If caught early drench them with baking soda and water.

#### **Fawns with blood in their stool.**

If the fawns are under the age of 2 weeks its most likely not coccidia.

treating them with 1/2 cc baytril under skin once and 1/2 cc genomycin in there milk bottle along with a half of a SMZ tablet(sulfa tab) twice a day.

#### **Worming Fawns**

It is recommended to wait until the fawns are 3 months old to de-worm if warranted. (IE: fecal sample reveals infestation.) At 3 months use the same deworming product as you use on the adult deer.

VALBAZEN is a good and easy to administer oral wormer for Fawns

Safe-guard paste Apple-cinnamon flavored oral dewormer is safe and convenient, it is a microorganism that helps to digest food.

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#### **Coccidiosis - sympton - scours/diarrhea**

Coccidiosis treatment for Fawns

If you took a fecal sample to your Vet and he said your fawn had Coccidiosis, Use Corid, 20% powdered on fawns, mix 3 1/2 oz powdered Corid to 1 quart of water.

note; 1 oz Corid = 3 1/2 table spoons.

Give each fawn 6-7 cc of this solution each day for 7-12 days.

Fawn Coccidiosis can also be treated with 3cc of liquid Corid put in with the formula or water bottle.

Feed once each day for 5 days

If you have a problem with them not liking the taste you can add apple flavored Jell-O powder to the formula or you can add apple cider or juice

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#### **Navel infections.**

Iodine is a good disinfectant with an injection of a penicillin - streptomycin mixture often works fairly

well. Give for 3 days.

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### **Scours/Diarrea**

Fawns with scours and extremely loose stools

You need to stop scours fast.

It is always important to keep the bottle, nipple, etc. as sterile as possible.

A remedy that has worked for many farmers feeding fawns is as follows.

Day one, Mix 1/2 milk replacer with 1/2 gelling type Electrolyte,, 1/2cc Tylan 200, 1cc of Tincture of Iodine 7% in the first feeding and drop back to 1/2cc after that in every bottle.

It has also been found that what works best with the iodine is 1cc of Tylosin with the first treatment of iodine and 1/2cc morning and evening after that. Do both for 24hrs after symptoms stop.

Day two, Mix milk replacer, 2 teaspoons of 100% pumpkin, 1 teaspoon of yogurt, 1/2 cc Tylan 200 and 1/2 cc 7% tincture of iodine in every bottle.

Day three, mix milk replacer, 2 teaspoons of 100% pumpkin, 1 teaspoon of yogurt, in every bottle.

Give this until 24 hr's after the symptoms are gone.

Also put 3/4 cc Ivomec pour on on their back.

Spray vinegar on their butts after every feeding to stop the sucking if you have fawns in together.

Worm all the fawns!

100% pumpkin filling is found at your local grocery store; usually in the baking section.

Don't mix the electrolyte gelling agent until right before your feeding, it will get thick in about 2-5 minutes.

These gelling electrolytes keep their stool thickened and they get a chance to retain some water as well as food values from the milk

It is good to give plain Dannon's yogurt, give about 1 teaspoon of yogurt (mixed in the milk replacer) per feeding to help maintain proper bacteria.

There are several fairly good drugs that counter e coli and most types of scours.

Biosol Liquid Can also be added to their milk for treatment of bacterial diarrhea and bacterial enteritis.

There's Ampicillin, neomycin sulfate, oxytetracycline, biosol and lincomycin with spectino-mycin (LS 50).

Most have had great luck using the LS 50.

There are a lot of gelling electrolytes out there that firm their stool.

Another method is to put flour in a pan and scorch it on the stove. Skip a feeding or two and then mix the scorched flour in their bottle. It may put a stop to the scours.

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### **Blindness**

Many times the blindness can be reversed with a good antibiotic therapy. Use Penicillin G at 1.5cc sub-Q dosage rates for 5 consecutive days on fawns with bacterial infections that settle in their eyes (generally detectable by a blue opaque pigment) with great success. It is important to remember to use probias or yogurt during the treatment period to maintain bacterial growth in the rumen.

IF the fawn is merely circling or "dazed" it could be thiamine deficient instead of blind. This can happen after deworming or if the animal is still "polluted" with parasites. (Have a fecal sample checked!)

Vitamin B-Complex-Plus high in thiamine will normally correct this condition. your hint re: worming set the cure in motion.

Give up to 3cc of VITAMIN B12 1000MCG INJECTION, w/12.5 thiamine. If the animal's need is for thiamine, top dressing pelleted food with Brewer's Yeast will help.

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### **"Warts"**

Are generally harmless and fall off on their own.

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### **Mites**

Will cause a little crusty bump anywhere on their body that should be treated with Ivermic Plus 1/2 cc @ per fawn and a follow up shot 30 days later.

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### **Heel Fly or Warble flies**

looks like a small puncture wound or like a huge pimple.

Take a pinch of black pepper and dab in puncture or hole. You will see a small black head protrude in and out.

Take a small tweezers while someone holds fawn and reach in and pull it out. keep the area clean and it will heal up.

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### **FLYSTRUCK**

sympton - maggots in/around anus during/after scours/diarrea

The only way to take care of "flystruck" is to continually wash/clean the area and get rid of the maggots constantly.

If you don't clean them off constantly - it can become very serious for the fawn's survival.