

## Wildlife baby boom

### Baby animals left alone are not necessarily abandoned

Recently, healthy baby wildlife has been brought into Brampton Animal Services, after well-intentioned members of the public removed them from their natural habitat.

Two baby deer (on separate occasions) were taken from their habitat and brought into people's homes. The people believed these deer were orphaned, and wanted to care for them. Brampton Animal Services helped transport the deer to a registered rehabilitation centre for appropriate care.

Often, these types of stories do not always have endings like this.

Spring is when we see a baby boom in wildlife. Many species of wildlife leave their young unattended for reasonably long periods of time. Some species leave their babies alone temporarily to minimize the chance of predators finding the nest or babies.

To determine if young wildlife is truly orphaned, check on the animal for over a period of 24 to 48 hours while keeping your distance so as to not scare the adult away. Do not remove it. The animal may not need assistance, and removing it from its natural habitat may cause more harm to the animal by handling it.

As a reminder, it is a violation under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* to keep wildlife as a pet or to provide rehabilitation (e.g. raising orphaned babies). The Ministry of Natural Resources provides strict guidelines and requirements for facilities involved in wildlife rehabilitation, and only registered facilities may provide these services.

Brampton Animal Services strives to educate owners to live harmoniously with urban wildlife through various methods. For more tips, visit [www.brampton.ca/animalservices](http://www.brampton.ca/animalservices).

The Ministry of Natural Resources ([www.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca)) also has some great information about how to live with wildlife.

If a wild animal presents an immediate threat to public safety, call Brampton Animal Services at 3-1-1 or Peel Regional Police at 905-453-3311.