



Can you **S.P.O.T.** a fawn in need of help?

Several studies have shown captive-raised fawns have an 85% chance of mortality within three months of being released. We simply can't do the job that mom was intended to do! Fawns raised by their mom have a significantly higher chance at survival. Rescue and rehabilitation are only appropriate in true emergencies.

S

SOUND. It is normal for fawns to call occasionally while their mom is away for up to 12 hours at a time, but near constant calling all day is a sign that they may have been orphaned.

P

PARASITES. It is normal for fawns to have some ticks. Their mom will groom them the next time she checks in. A fawn may be an orphan if you notice large amounts of fly eggs or maggots, or if the fawn's eyes are swollen shut due to numerous ticks on the face and ears.

O

OUTSTRETCHED. A normal resting position for a hiding fawn is sitting with their legs tucked in close to or under their body. A weak or dehydrated orphaned fawn may rest with their legs splayed, unable to stand or lift their head.

T

TRAUMA. Minor injuries are likely to heal on their own without intervention but life-threatening injuries such as serious bleeding or broken bones are a reason for rescue.

If you find a fawn in need of help, immediately contact Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife before taking action to be connected with a wildlife biologist or game warden who can provide instructions. Never feed or attempt rehabilitate a fawn yourself. Only licensed rehabilitators have the training to safely and legally care for injured and orphaned wildlife.

