

Leave Young Wildlife Alone

By Michael Ortoski

The Pennsylvania Game Commission is reminding those spending time in the great outdoors to leave young wildlife alone.

While some young animals might appear to be abandoned, usually they are not. It's likely their mothers are watching over them from somewhere nearby. When encountering young wild animals, whether deer, birds, raccoons or something else, the commission says the best thing you can do is leave them alone.

Interfering with or removing any wild animal from its natural setting can be harmful to both people and wildlife. It also is illegal to take or possess wildlife from the wild. Under state law, the penalty for such a violation is a fine of up to \$1,500 per animal.

Only wildlife rehabilitators, who are licensed by the Game Commission, are permitted to care for injured or orphaned wildlife for the purposes of eventual release back into the wild. For those who find wildlife that truly is in need of assistance, a listing of licensed wildlife rehabilitators can be found on the

Pennsylvania Association of Wildlife Rehabilitators website.

If you are unable to identify a wildlife rehabilitator in your area, contact the Game Commission by phone at 1-833-PGC-WILD or 1-833-PGC-HUNT.



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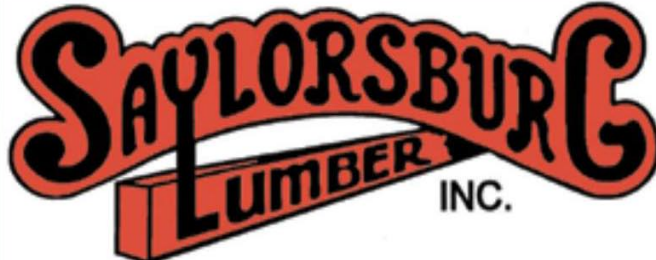
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