



SO YOU FOUND A...

Baby Squirrel

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INTRODUCTION

Newborn squirrels are hairless and mouse-sized. They look similar to mice, but a neonate squirrel's head is about the same size as the body, the forepaws are large, and the tail is very thick. A mouse, on the other hand, has a tiny head, very tiny paws, and a thin tail. A mouse's muzzle is thin and tapered, in contrast to a squirrel's, which is thick.

Baby squirrels frequently fall out of the nest due to storms and people trimming trees. Wildlife mothers are very devoted to their offspring, however, and won't forget about them. In many cases, the mother will retrieve the babies if the following techniques are applied. If the baby appears healthy, try these ideas:

NEONATE/NEWBORN

Put a Zip-Lock baggie full of warm water (**NOT HOT**) in the bottom of a small shallow cardboard box (2-3 inches tall). Cover the baggie with a non-terrycloth towel, scrunching the edges up against the inside of the box to form a nest. Place the baby or babies in the box and place it at the bottom of the tree where they were found, or in the crotch of the tree if the box can be wedged so it won't blow down. Keep pets and kids away from the area and watch from a window or quietly from a distance. The squirrels don't have to be watched constantly. Return after a couple of hours and if the babies are still there, call Operation Wildlife for further instructions.



UP TO WEANLING AGE (Furred but shaky with a skinny tail)

Place a small cardboard box at the bottom of the tree where the baby was found, or in the crotch of the tree if it can be wedged so it won't blow down. For younger squirrels, a Zip-Lock baggie with warm (NOT HOT) water can be provided for warmth, but these squirrels will be old enough to move toward the heat if they need it. Place a non-terrycloth towel or cloth in the bottom of the box. Keep pets and kids away and check several hours later. If the baby is still there, call Operation Wildlife for further instructions.



SIGNS OF TROUBLE

- It is **cold** and **lethargic**
- It is covered with **parasites** (fleas, fly strike or ticks)
- It is **screaming** in a high pitch over & over (this is a distress call for mother)
- It has been in a dog or cat's mouth
- It has a **broken limb**
- It has **abrasions**
- It is having **difficulty breathing** (gasping, gurgling)
- Its coat is **matted** and/or **patchy**
- It has a **head tilt**
- It is exhibiting **odd behavior** (circling, falling over, etc.)
- It is **bleeding**

If the squirrel is showing any of the above symptoms, call Operation Wildlife immediately for transport instructions. Even baby squirrels can bite - **HARD**, so if you must handle it, wear heavy leather gloves and touch it as little as possible.