



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center
28728 Wolf Road | Bay Village, OH 44140 | (440) 871-2900

Q: There is a baby deer lying in my back yard. It has not moved in hours and I have not seen the mother all day. Should I take action to save it?

A: This is actually a perfectly normal situation. When the fawn is first born, the mother deer will lead the fawn to what she thinks is a safe place and it will naturally lie quietly and not move until she gets back. This is a natural method of protection.



The fawn is born with very little scent and white spots for camouflage. As long as the fawn does not move, it will be hidden from all kinds of danger. At this stage of life, the fawn is too weak to keep up with the mother in the event of a threat; therefore, mom will hide out of sight so she does not lead predators to her baby. At the end of the day, when mom feels it is safe,

she will go to her baby for feeding time.

The only time humans should intervene is if the fawn is walking around and crying. A fawn knows instinctively to lie down and be quiet. If it is up walking and making noise, the baby may be hungry because something has happened to mom.

If this occurs, please call our Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Program staff for advice. If the fawn is lying down quietly and not moving, please leave it alone and rest assured that its mother will be back at the end of the day.

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Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Program
440-871-2900 ext. 204

