



Alamosa Police Department

425 4th Street
Alamosa, Colorado 81101



Duane Oakes, Chief of Police

Wildlife Watch

The Alamosa Police Department wishes to inform all City of Alamosa residents and non-residents that we've receive several calls for service concerning the welfare of baby deer being unattended. It is understandable to be concerned about a fawn that appears to have been abandoned by its mother, but **PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE FAWNS** before checking the following:

See if the fawn is in a safe spot – (i.e., not in the middle of a road, not too close to a road or in an exposed ditch, etc. If the fawn is, then it can be moved about 50 to 100 feet to a safer location, preferably in the woods or high grass near the woods. If possible and circumstances allow you to wait, please call and have law enforcement or Colorado Parks & Wildlife relocate the fawn to a safer location.

Does the fawn look healthy?

- Shiny, clean coat
- Clear eyes
- Wet nose
- No discharges
- Curled up
- Resting comfortably

If yes, the fawn's healthy.

Understand that the mom (doe) will give birth and leave the fawn. She can leave up to about 12 hours, and then come back to nurse when the fawn bleats (calls out). Bleating sounds like a baby goat. When the mom hears that, she will go to the fawn within 20-40 minutes. Just stay back and watch with binoculars. Mom is normally within a 500' radius of the fawn.

UNDERSTAND SHE IS NOT ABANDONING HER BABY. She does not want to bring attention to the fawn by being with him/her, and she needs to feed herself to generate more milk to feed the fawn. Please give Mom and the fawn space. Stay back and watch with binoculars. You can continue to check on the fawn, while keeping your distance. Mom will only be there when she has to nurse, and she usually returns when it's dark or almost dark (dawn or dusk). She nurses quickly and then leaves again.

Police Headquarters
425 4th Street
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(719) 589-2548

"Protect & Serve"

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The fawn may leave the area that day or in several days. At 2-3 weeks old, the fawn will follow Mom.

Please do not touch or attempt to feed the fawn unless you believe it's in critical danger. To see if the fawn is hydrated, you can pull the skin gently and it should snap right back or you can observe or feel his belly to see if it feels full.

If, on the other hand, you determine that there is a problem:

- ★ The fawn on his side or his legs are stretched out
- ★ You see a dead deer on the road (check to see if the deer is a nursing female), and you believe the deer could be the mother of the fawn,
- ★ If you see a fawn walking around calling out for more than about 40 minutes,
- ★ Covered with insects

Those are not good signs and could indicate that something has happened to the Mom.

If you have already removed a healthy fawn, please put the fawn back, as the mother may abandoned its baby. We've received reports that the mother has returned even after a few days, but be sure to keep an eye on the fawn because the Mom's milk may have dried up by then. So put the fawn back if you can and continue to monitor it for distress.

While there is a small percentage of young animals that are truly in trouble, it does happen, but remember too, that not all new born wildlife will survive and are designed to live with their parents within their natural habitat.

You should only call police dispatch or Colorado Parks & Wildlife if you are absolutely certain that the fawn is in distress and in critical condition or if you have questions that need to be answered.

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