

Happy Campers

KEEPING WILDLIFE SAFE



Most people love to get out of the busy cities and towns, breath the fresh air, and enjoy our natural world. Getting a chance to watch a deer with her fawn, birds building a nest, or ducklings hatching and one-by-one popping into the water behind their mother can be awe inspiring.

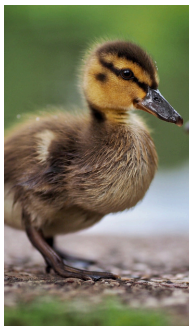
There are times however when well intentioned people misunderstand or mistakenly interfere with that natural world. This brochure is designed to assist you in making proactive choices and offer support on how to avoid bad situations.



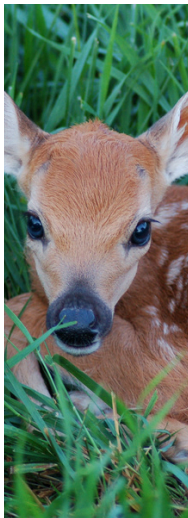
Always plug vents and hitches in your RV with something indestructible, such as steel wool, when you put it away for the winter. Those lovely holes look like perfect nesting sites for several species of birds and small mammals. Plugging the holes will avoid unwanted nesting that may delay your vacation or injure wildlife.



Before you leave on a holiday, check the RV inside and out for any wildlife that may have found their way into the vehicle. People are often horrified to find babies in a drawer, cupboard, or under a mattress after they have gone a great distance with no way of getting the babies back with the mother.



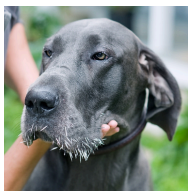
You may see young songbirds or waterbirds running near your campsite. Chances are, they have a mother or family nearby so picking them up is not always the best idea. You may be well intentioned, but could actually be kidnapping that baby! The best plan is to discuss the situation with a wildlife rehabilitation facility before interfering.



Fawns can appear particularly tiny and helpless. They are very thin at birth and are programmed to lie very still, even when touched, so as to not attract predators. The doe generally does not stay close to her fawn during the day so people often interpret this as abandonment. Does never abandon their fawns unless they have been killed or injured and are unable to return. The rule is: if a fawn is found wandering and calling for some time, it needs help. If it is curled up sleeping or nibbling bushes quietly, it does not.



If a nest is knocked down or a tree is cut exposing a nest, it can be re-nested, whether it belongs to a bird or a squirrel. Medicine River Wildlife Centre specializes in this procedure so call for help as each situation is a bit different.



Keep pets under control. For you, it's a fun vacation in the wilderness, but for wildlife it is extremely stressful or even deadly to encounter a loose dog or cat. Even if your pet is friendly, wildlife may perceive them as a threat and respond accordingly.



Keep pet food, your food, and garbage inside. We all hear of attracting bears but there are many other creatures that you do not want to attract to your campsite: Red Squirrels, Skunks, and Fox, just to name a few.



Be sure to clean up your old fishing line and other fishing equipment. Loons, grebes, pelicans, and many other waterbirds die or are injured each year when encountering discarded line.