

What to do When You Find a Rabbit

What You Need to Know:

The North American Eastern Cottontail Rabbit is the most common rabbit in Pennsylvania. These rabbits like to live around the edges of open areas like your yard or a cemetery with shrubbery. Rabbits love most forms of vegetation including things you may plant in your garden.

Nests are shallow holes in the ground and can be easily overlooked when doing yard work. Rabbits that are at least 3 inches long and able to hop around should be left alone, unless they are in immediate danger from dogs or cats. Smaller rabbits or bunnies whose eyes have not yet opened need help.

What you should do:

- Rabbits are easily stressed and have delicate digestive systems.
- If you find one that is 3-4 inches in length and hopping around, **leave it**.
- **Note:** Mother rabbits feed their babies and care for them only during the night. During the day they keep hidden.
- If no mother is in sight do not assume a baby rabbit has been abandoned.
- If you find a rabbit that is hairless, has its eyes shut, help it. Place it in a small lined box (you can use grass or fur from the nest). The box should be kept in a warm, dark, quiet area until you have contacted a rehabber.
- Do not attempt to give it any food or water until you contact a rehabber.

If you are unsure if a rabbit needs help or assistance call Kritter Kamp or the Wildlife center immediately.

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