



I found a baby squirrel...



Every year Shasta Wildlife fields hundreds of calls from our community members about baby squirrels. Gray squirrels nest twice a year - the first beginning in late February and the second in late July. They commonly have litters of three or four pups. Babies' eyes open at five weeks and may begin exploring outside the nest soon after. They are weaned from their mothers' milk at around 8-10 weeks.

A baby squirrel has the best chance of survival when cared for by it's mother.

If you find a baby squirrel, use the following chart to guide your choice of intervention.

Remember to wear sturdy gloves any time you handle wildlife. Do not give food or water to injured or orphaned wildlife.

START HERE

Do any of the following apply to the squirrel?

- 🐿 It is bleeding, has an open wound, or has a broken bone.
- 🐿 It has been in a cat's mouth.
- 🐿 It is covered in fly eggs (look like small grains of rice).
- 🐿 It is cold, wet, or crying nonstop.

YES

The squirrel is likely injured or orphaned. Call Shasta Wildlife for rehab placement.

NO

If the squirrel is uninjured, the next step is to identify its age to determine if intervention is needed.

- Does the squirrel...
- 🐿 have a fluffed-out tail?
 - 🐿 have a body longer than 6" (not including tail)?
 - 🐿 approach humans or pets?

YES

This is a juvenile squirrel. You do not need to intervene. Even at the young age of 10 - 12 weeks the squirrel is independent. If the squirrel is approaching humans or pets, try to scare it by making loud noises when it comes near. It may be looking for water. In this case, you may put a shallow dish in a safe, quiet place on the outskirts of your property.

NO

This is a baby squirrel. You will need to guide the baby back to it's mother.

Congratulations! You helped to reunite a baby with its mother. Thanks for your help!

YES

Has the mother returned to care for her baby?

NO

Observe the baby for the next 6-8 hours of daylight. Reheat the rice every 2 hours. (Ambient temperature dependent)

ONE:
Place uncooked rice or bird seed in a sock and warm in the microwave for 20-30 seconds. Wrap the sock in a soft towel and place it with the baby in an open container (e.g. a box)

Do NOT give the baby food or water

TWO:
Return the squirrel to its nesting tree - this should be a tree in the immediate area where the squirrel was found. If you don't know which tree the squirrel's nest is in, or if the nest was destroyed, then choose a tree closest to where the squirrel was found.

THREE:
If the baby's eyes are OPEN, place the baby on the tree trunk to encourage it to climb. If it does not climb, attach the open container to the tree.

If the baby's eyes are CLOSED, attach the open container to the tree.

Keep pets indoors or far away from the reunite area.



Call Shasta Wildlife at 365-WILD (9453)
Message us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/shastawildliferescue/