

# WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND AN INJURED DEER/OR ONE IS BROUGHT INTO YOUR CENTRE

## RTA

1. Cover the animals head with a blanket/jumper, this will calm it down.
2. If the animal has been hit by a car and is unable to get up, than you can safely assume it has a broken spine/legs and will have to be put to sleep. Call the police/local ranger or one of the local rescue centres (we don't have the facility to PTS but may know someone who can)

## FENCING

If the deer is caught in fencing, **PLEASE DO NOT RELEASE IT**. Call one of the wildlife centres immediately. If the animal is released it could run off and never be seen again (even on 3 legs) and die a horrible painful death. Ligature wounds from fencing, don't always look too bad, you could think that it has only lost a bit of skin, but these injuries can take up to 2 weeks to show the extent of the true damage.(see pictures)

3. Cover the head (if possible) and then move downwind away from the immediate area but still where you can see it, until help comes.
4. The deer will then be released in a controlled manner, keeping further injury to a minimum.

## DOG ATTACKS

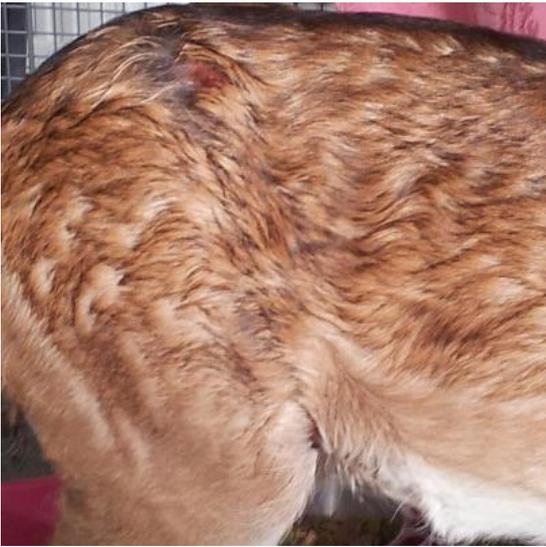
5. Cover the animals head, to keep it calm and call the nearest wildlife rescue.

If you have an injured deer brought into your centre, call wildlife rescue as soon as possible. Whilst waiting for them to arrive keep the animal calm by covering its head, offer **lectade/effadryl** to rehydrate. They will usually readily take this from a bowl, after a bit of coaxing by pushing the nose into the liquid. Keep it warm with blanket.

Ligature wounds are some of the worst wounds we see. They start off looking ok, but after a few days the skin can start to die off revealing much deeper wounds. (We had one that looked fairly superficial-10 days later it had gone down to the tendons and bone).

As far as drugs are concerned they do not tolerate many drugs so if a vet is called and if he/she is not sure, please call for advice. Roe deer, especially, are very flaky (can drop dead at the drop of a hat) and it is best that they have very little or no drugs. Fallow can tolerate a bit more but only certain drugs are safe for them.

**We don't apologise for the following pictures, if people don't see them they won't understand what happens to these poor animals.**



On admission



2 days later



Shows skin dying two weeks later. It took 9 weeks for this wound to heal.



Barbed wire tear



Wire wrapped around the hock resulted in this horrendous foot you can see the skin just peeling off as it dies.





On admission looks like just superficial skin scrape



3 days later!

These wounds were not her only problem, she had not eaten for 24-48hrs before we were notified, we didn't get the full story and it took a further day to get her to eat anything substantial. By which time her organs were beginning to close down, she died 5 days later.

Fluids and food are just as important in their immediate care, so if you can get them to eat browse – silver birch, rowan, bramble, soft new holly leaves, rose petals, dandelion and fallow will eat grass as well as giving them lectade/effadryl then it can be a life saver. Saying that it is no good just putting a bowl in with the animal, someone has to be with them to encourage drinking and eating. One person should sit quietly with the deer and encourage drinking and then once established browse could be introduced. Obviously, This is ONLY if you are unable to get a rescuer to site quickly.

**The above advice should be taken under caution. Deer young and old can be responsible for considerable damage to a rescuer. If you are not familiar with deer and do not know how to handle them do not expose yourself to the potential danger, just get help as soon as possible. We would never criticise anyone for standing back.**

Call for help.

Observe.

If possible cover the head.

Stand off to reduce stress to the animal.

**PLEASE NEVER, NEVER RELEASE THE DEER OR CUT IT FREE FROM THE WIRE**

# FAWNS

We are getting increasingly worried about advice being given about what to do if you come across a deer fawn. With May/June (the birthing period) approaching we felt we had to say something.

We have had many years experience between us and had first-hand experience of mums feeding every two hours and the fact that some people advise to leave alone for up to eight/twelve hours is very scary – would you leave your own baby for 8 hours without anything to drink/eat? I am not aware of any new born/young animal expected to survive unattended for that length of time.

The problem is when you come across them you don't know how long they have been there already, we have always said that if they look content and are not making a noise or laying flat out then observe for up to an hour- 2 at most. If mum is not seen then pick up or call local rescue centre. **THEY CANNOT BE LEFT FOR MORE THAN 2 HOURS** otherwise their digestive system begins to close down.

These animals, especially if orphaned, have to bond with one person, otherwise they will not feed. That person is then mum for the first 3 months of their lives. Do not attempt to feed a fawn ,the wrong fluids will cause scouring and if not caught quickly enough result in death. Again the best way to help is to

**Call a rescue center.**

**Give clear directions and symptoms.**

**Wait with the fawn until help arrives**

**Or take to the center if asked**

Two years ago we were privileged to have two of our previously reared fawns return with their babies. We are pretty sure one was born in the garden, but the point is, neither left the fawns for more than two hours between feeds. You may say that was because they were in the garden but they still had free access to come and go as they liked onto the forest, but were never away longer than 2 hours.

Please, please, please, spread the word it is important that we get to these babies in time before they start to close down, and get into even more trouble.



Recovering Fallow fawn taken for a walk wearing a harness for safety



Roe fawn