

Just for Kids

If You Care, Leave It There!

Sometimes people do more harm to wildlife when they think they are helping. Wild animals can appear injured or abandoned but most times are usually fine.

Did You Know?

A young bird, which has just grown its flight feathers, is called a fledgling. Fledglings leave the nest about the time they can fly. They may not look like they can fly, but they can!

A mother deer only visits her fawn four to six times a day to feed it. She is usually nearby but doesn't want to lead a predator to her fawn. It is not only illegal to remove a fawn from the wild, but it reduces the chance that the fawn will survive.

It takes years for a turtle to be old enough to have young. And, once a turtle is taken from the wild, it is often non-releasable. If you care, leave it there!



P. J. FUSCO
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It is normal to see a fawn alone in the grass. Its mother is most likely nearby waiting to feed the fawn.

Danger! Don't Touch!

If you touch a wild animal, you could be putting yourself in danger. Some animals have rabies and can give it to you. Often it is hard to tell if an animal is sick. Only biologists, animal control officers and wildlife rehabilitators should handle injured animals.



Because raccoons could have rabies, only wildlife rehabilitators who have taken special training from the DEP can care for orphaned or injured raccoons.

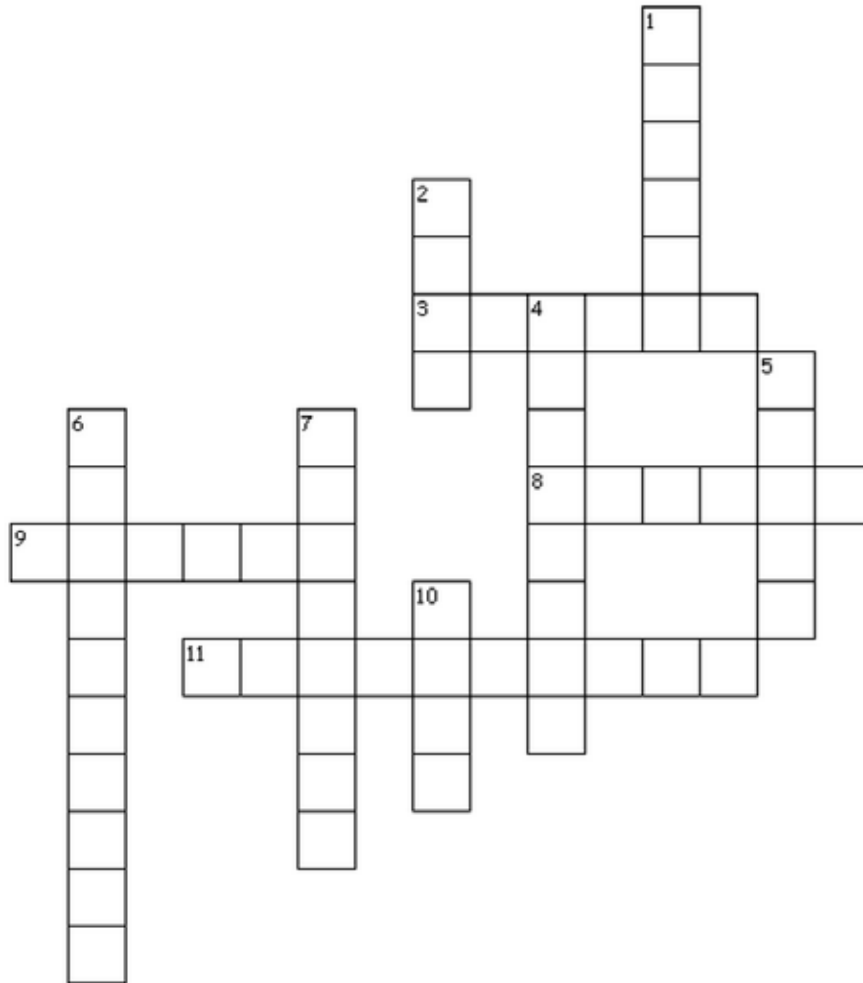
What's for Breakfast?

Should you feed wildlife? Just like you, wild animals need good things to eat. People food is not good wildlife food! Bread is bad for ducks and geese because it does not give the birds the nutrition they need. If too many ducks and geese stay in one area because they are getting fed, they can pass diseases to one another very easily.

Is it OK to feed songbirds? People usually feed birds seed during winter. The seeds are fine for the birds. But people have to remember to keep bird feeders clean so the birds don't get sick. People should also remember to take down their birdfeeders in late winter in areas where black bears are found to keep bears away from their homes. It is not a good idea to feed other wild animals!

If you care, leave it there!

The wildlife found in Connecticut is certainly beautiful and we want to make sure it is protected. However, as you read on the front of this sheet, in most cases trying to interfere with wildlife can do more harm than good! If you see something concerning, make sure to contact an adult or officer to make sure the situation is handled in the right way. If you go on a nature walk and see wildlife, remember the golden rule: Take only pictures, and leave only footprints!



Across

3. Some animals have diseases like _____, which they can pass onto humans.
8. If you touch a wild animal, you could be putting yourself in _____.
9. _____ food is not good for wildlife!
11. Only fill your birdfeeders in the winter so you do not attract _____ to your home!

Down

1. Only biologists, animal control officers, and wildlife rehabilitators should _____ wild animals.
2. Sometimes people do more _____ to wildlife when they think they are helping
4. It is okay to put out _____ for songbirds in the winter.
5. _____ is bad for ducks because they cannot get very many nutrients from it.
6. _____, which have just grown their flight feathers leave the nest about the time they can fly.
7. If you see a lone fawn, it usually means the mother is around but does not want to lead a _____ to her baby.
10. Wild animals can seem abandoned but are usually ____.