

## **Kahnawake Animal Control Baby Wildlife FAQ Sheet**

The Spring and Summer months are here and with that comes baby season for our local wildlife.

Every year, Kahnawake Animal Control receives many calls concerning baby wildlife. Anything from baby squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, etc.

### **1) I found baby wildlife and no mom. Are they abandoned?**

No, they are not abandoned. Do understand that you may encounter babies alone, but mom is usually close by, searching for food. Adults also avoid being around the nest often to not attract predators.

### **2) If I were to handle babies, would mom reject them because of my scent?**

It is a common myth that touching baby wildlife will cause the mother to reject it. If you do come across a healthy baby, resist the urge to “save” it. It’s always best for baby/young wildlife to stay with their mothers. Removing a healthy animal increases the risk of it being abandoned.

### **3) I’ve seen a raccoon out during the daytime, is that normal?**

Do not be concerned seeing traditionally nocturnal animals (raccoons, skunks, bats, rabbits) out and about during the day throughout the Spring and Summer months.

### **4) I found a nest in my yard; can you remove it?**

No, it is ideal for the nest to remain whenever possible. Do monitor your home or yard for nests. If you encounter one, please let it be. They are only there for a few weeks to raise their family and then move on.

### **5) What precautions can I take to avoid wildlife settling in on my property?**

Taking precautions like keeping your garbage extra secure, regularly inspecting your roof for areas that wildlife could enter, applying/installing chicken wire under sheds, around and over gardens, securing your coops and pet doors if you have, etc.

### **6) I set a trap and caught something; do you relocate it?**

Yes, we do. An Animal Control officer will determine if it is a mother or not. If it is not, we will relocate the animal. If it is a mother, we will release her back in the area. If momma is trapped and relocated, and babies are found, they would need specialized and around the clock care provided by a wildlife rescue/rehabilitator. Every Spring, wildlife rescues fill up quickly due to abandoned wildlife babies. Do allow baby wildlife to grow up in their natural environment.

### **7) I found wildlife babies; can you take them?**

Depending on the situation, we will inspect and determine whether they need to be removed/relocated. This year has been extremely difficult due to the overwhelming wildlife population. Rescues and rehabilitators are refusing wildlife and are no longer accepting them for the time being. Unfortunately, that leaves Animal Control overwhelmed and unable to accommodate all abandoned wildlife brought to us.