



BABY SEASON SQUIRREL PHONE TIPS from Dawn Roda, Squirrel Species Specialist

Make sure everyone knows where the referral list is for out-of-county squirrels. Dawn only wants to take out of county squirrels if she absolutely has to. It is very difficult for Dawn to locate and coordinate releases in other counties. Many rehabbers take a few hours to call people back so they need to be patient and wait for a call back.

TREE SQUIRRELS. Baby tree squirrels found on the ground after falling from a nest should be left alone for awhile to see if the mother will return to get it. (This means stay away from the squirrel, take pets in the house, etc. and leave it alone for at least two hours, four hours maximum, to give the mother a chance to return without being frightened away.) It doesn't matter if they have touched it, the mommie squirrel will return and get it anyway. If it appears cold the person can place it on top of a t-shirt/sweatshirt, etc. to keep it warm. If the mother does not return after several hours, then it probably has been abandoned or the mother is dead. Of course if the baby is injured or bleeding they need to get it to us immediately. Mother tree squirrels are capable of picking up their young and returning them to the nest.

GROUND SQUIRRELS. Young baby ground squirrels (eyes closed or barely able to walk) have either been abandoned or dug up accidentally by construction. They can bring them in as the mother will not have another burrow to take them to or the mother is dead. If someone sees a young ground squirrel running around but it looks small to them, tell them to leave it alone. California Ground Squirrels wean at 60-70 grams and that is very small. There are many young ground squirrels exploring the world in the spring and they should be left alone unless they are not moving, injured, etc. then they should bring it to us.

UNKNOWN NEONATAL. If a person finds a small hairless baby and the mother has not returned to get it then they can bring it in. In the last few years, all the hairless baby squirrels have turned out to be baby rats. We do not raise baby rats; no exceptions, sorry. Get a history on where they found it. Last year, someone brought in a neonatal baby and they lived in an area that had Kangaroo Rats so we had to make sure the birth weight and/or body shape was not that of a Kangaroo Rat. Dawn is more than happy to come down and take a look at it. All rodent babies can be fed oral electrolytes and squirrel formula until Dawn can get there.

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