



## WILD RABBITS

### IF I FOUND A NEST OF BABY RABBITS. WHAT DO I DO?

First and foremost, do not disturb the rabbit nest.

If the nest was accidentally disturbed by you, your family, or your pets, then repair the nest as best you can. Mother rabbits will still care for their babies even if you've had to touch them or if the nest was disturbed.

Wild baby rabbits are usually not orphaned. Do not bring baby rabbits inside or try to feed them. The reality is fewer than 10% of baby rabbits survive a week in human care. The best thing you can do is leave the rabbits alone and leave the area. Mother rabbits do not stay with their babies during the day like a dog or cat would. Mother rabbits only visit the nest 2-3 times a day to feed their babies for a few minutes; usually after dark and the very early morning, but not if you are watching. You will likely never see mom, regardless of the excellent care she provides.

Do not relocate the nest. Nest relocation is illegal. In addition, the mother rabbit will be frantic, not knowing where to find the nest when she comes back to feed her babies. Finally, handling the babies or moving the nest can spread Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHDV2) a highly contagious and deadly disease that affects both wild and domestic rabbits. RHDV2 virus does not pose a risk to humans or animals other than rabbits.

### I FOUND AN INJURED RABBIT OR ONE THAT HAS DIED. WHAT DO I DO?

First, what *not* to do: DO NOT pick up or handle the rabbit(s).

To report an injured rabbit, or for dead animal pickup in the City of Irvine, you may contact the Irvine Police Department's Animal Services Unit at (949) 724-7092.

For service outside of Irvine, contact your local agency. A list of Southern California shelters is [here](#).

