



## Found an Orphaned or Injured Baby Squirrel?



### Eastern Gray Squirrels

- Breed twice a year in winter and spring. After an approximate 45-day gestation period, baby squirrels are born in late February through March and again in late June through August.
- The parents build either leaf and twig nests (dreys) or tree dens (cavities) to raise their young.
- Unfortunately, human landscaping activities coincide with parent squirrels raising their litter, which leads to many babies tumbling out of pruned or felled trees.
- Also, high winds or storms can break down tree nests causing one or more of the babies to fall out.
- If you find a baby squirrel on the ground, first **OBSERVE** from a distance. Keep pets and children away.
- If he/she looks healthy, warm, and dry, then you want to try and reunite the baby with the mom. Being with mom is the best chance of survival for the baby squirrel. **Please do not kidnap a healthy baby!**
- If it is daylight, and the weather is warm, you can leave the baby at the base of the tree and monitor from a distance. A baby squirrel will call out for mom when hungry (or you can play a smart phone recording of the baby distress calls) so mom can hear the calls and come to the rescue.
- It may take mom several hours to retrieve her young, but it is very important that the baby stay warm during the reuniting attempt. You can also place the baby in a shallow box with a dish towel to snuggle into and a hot water bottle or hand warmer for heat. Never allow direct contact of heat source with the baby and monitor to ensure the baby stays warm but not hot. **PLEASE DO NOT FEED!**
- If there are cats or dogs around temporarily, you can pick up the baby squirrel with gloves on and place in a berry basket or a shallow shoe box with fleece on bottom. Attach the container securely to the tree trunk. Ask neighbors to put cats and dogs inside their house and keep them there.

### When to call for help. IF THE BABY SQUIRREL:

- Is not retrieved by mom by dark. Squirrel moms will not retrieve their young after dark, so babies should never be left outside at night.
- Is sick, injured, and/or cold
- Has been in a cat's or dog's mouth, or cannot be kept safe from harm from free-roaming cats or dogs
- Are covered in fly eggs (looks like small grains of rice)

**Always wear gloves when handling wildlife!**

