When you think of wildlife do your thoughts go to the countryside, a local park, or a nature center? What about the wildlife that lives with you every day? Our backyards are home to many different species whether we want them living there or not. Wildlife has been forced to either retreat as the cities expand or adapt to living among us. Urban wildlife has adapted fairly well to our concrete streets and buildings. They find little pockets of habitat tucked in corners of yards that provide shelter. They find garbage cans that provide meals and drinking water in gutters and limited containers. And sometimes they find backyard havens with wildlife houses, native grasses and wildflowers full of nutritious seeds, and ponds and bird baths with fresh water.

Not everyone is excited at the thought of having a variety of species in their yard, but wildlife can be helpful and observing them can be rewarding. Many insects are beneficial to the health of your yard and garden. Birds are colorful burrows of feather and song, and small, industrious, mammals, and reptiles all play important roles in the ecosystem.

There are several ways to attract urban wildlife to your yard or neighborhood. Tailing your landscape to the surrounding environment will create a cohesive sanctuary for a variety of native species. Planning native plants has benefits for you and urban wildlife. Prairie plants are adapted to use less water and can reduce erosion. Properly-located trees reduce energy costs by blocking summer sun and winter winds.

Wichita Park and Recreation Department. The goal of the nature center is to provide opportunities for the public to investigate, understand and develop an appreciation for wildlife, the environment and foster a sound stewardship of natural resources. For information on programs or to join our contacts please call 263-2797. Thanks to Marc Murrell & Lori Jones for reviewing the text.

Do Them a Favor. Leave them Alone!

It’s common to encounter young, wild animals, especially in the spring and summer. Most people are unable to distinguish young from adult wild animals, and want to take them home. Every year, the lives of young animals are needlessly jeopardized by well-intentioned people who take them from the wild in the mistaken belief that the animals are orphaned or injured and will die if not given care. In fact, rescuing wildlife from the wild often results in the death of the animal.

FIVE GOOD REASONS TO LEAVE THEM IN THE WILD

1. They’re Not Abandoned.

Bird and animal parents often leave their young while they search for food during the day. This is the time when the young are most vulnerable to valueless hunger. Young, for example, are quite safe when left alone because their color pattern and lack of scent help them to remain undetected until the doe returns. The adult animal is probably waiting for you to leave so it can resume care for its young.

2. It’s Illegal.

Picking up young animals is against the law. Both the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment require anyone to report to the police any suspicious animals that they find. This can be up to $1,000. State permits are required to legally possess most species of wild animals. For some species, federal permits are required and fines are more severe.

3. They May Carry Disease.

Even though they may look cute and fuzzy, wild animals can carry a number of potential health diseases. Rabies can be transmitted from a bite or saliva contacting an open wound. Distemper and rabies are the most common illnesses that may be acquired from wild animals. Ticks and fleas borne by some animals can carry various other diseases. Wild animals may also carry bacterias, roundworms, tapeworms, mites, and, or protozans that cause diseases in humans or pets.

4. They’re Not Pets.

Although young animals may look cute and cuddly, they are wild animals. Many well-meaning people have taken young animals home, then quickly learned they’re not equipped to handle the animal as it matures. “Adopting” wild young animals may be an inviting scheme for some people, but wild animals typically make poor pets. Many people have been injured by animals that initially seemed easily tamed.

5. Good Intentions Can Be Deadly.

Many animals taken into captivity soon die. Those that don’t initially seem easily tamed.

Omnivore: Consumer of both animal and plant material.

Protein: PLate-like structure that covers the top of the thorax on insects.

Do Them a Favor. Leave them Alone!

It’s common to encounter young, wild animals, especially in the spring and summer. Most people are unable to distinguish young from adult wild animals, and want to take them home. Every year, the lives of young animals are needlessly jeopardized by well-intentioned people who take them from the wild in the mistaken belief that the animals are orphaned or injured and will die if not given care. In fact, rescuing wildlife from the wild often results in the death of the animal.

FIVE GOOD REASONS TO LEAVE THEM IN THE WILD

1. They’re Not Abandoned.

Bird and animal parents often leave their young while they search for food during the day. This is the time when the young are most vulnerable to价值less hunger. Young, for example, are quite safe when left alone because their color pattern and lack of scent help them to remain undetected until the doe returns. The adult animal is probably waiting for you to leave so it can resume care for its young.

2. It’s Illegal.

Picking up young animals is against the law. Both the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment require anyone to report to the police any suspicious animals that they find. This can be up to $1,000. State permits are required to legally possess most species of wild animals. For some species, federal permits are required and fines are more severe.

3. They May Carry Disease.

Even though they may look cute and fuzzy, wild animals can carry a number of potential health diseases. Rabies can be transmitted from a bite or saliva contacting an open wound. Distemper and rabies are the most common illnesses that may be acquired from wild animals. Ticks and fleas borne by some animals can carry various other diseases. Wild animals may also carry bacterias, roundworms, tapeworms, mites, and, or protozans that cause diseases in humans or pets.

4. They’re Not Pets.

Although young animals may look cute and cuddly, they are wild animals. Many well-meaning people have taken young animals home, then quickly learned they’re not equipped to handle the animal as it matures. “Adopting” wild young animals may be an inviting scheme for some people, but wild animals typically make poor pets. Many people have been injured by animals that initially seemed easily tamed.

5. Good Intentions Can Be Deadly.

Many animals taken into captivity soon die. Those that don’t initially seem easily tamed.

Omnivore: Consumer of both animal and plant material.

Protein: PLate-like structure that covers the top of the thorax on insects.

Do Them a Favor. Leave them Alone!

It’s common to encounter young, wild animals, especially in the spring and summer. Most people are unable to distinguish young from adult wild animals, and want to take them home. Every year, the lives of young animals are needlessly jeopardized by well-intentioned people who take them from the wild in the mistaken belief that the animals are orphaned or injured and will die if not given care. In fact, rescuing wildlife from the wild often results in the death of the animal.

FIVE GOOD REASONS TO LEAVE THEM IN THE WILD

1. They’re Not Abandoned.

Bird and animal parents often leave their young while they search for food during the day. This is the time when the young are most vulnerable to valueless hunger. Young, for example, are quite safe when left alone because their color pattern and lack of scent help them to remain undetected until the doe returns. The adult animal is probably waiting for you to leave so it can resume care for its young.

2. It’s Illegal.

Picking up young animals is against the law. Both the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment require anyone to report to the police any suspicious animals that they find. This can be up to $1,000. State permits are required to legally possess most species of wild animals. For some species, federal permits are required and fines are more severe.

3. They May Carry Disease.

Even though they may look cute and fuzzy, wild animals can carry a number of potential health diseases. Rabies can be transmitted from a bite or saliva contacting an open wound. Distemper and rabies are the most common illnesses that may be acquired from wild animals. Ticks and fleas borne by some animals can carry various other diseases. Wild animals may also carry bacterias, roundworms, tapeworms, mites, and, or protozans that cause diseases in humans or pets.

4. They’re Not Pets.

Although young animals may look cute and cuddly, they are wild animals. Many well-meaning people have taken young animals home, then quickly learned they’re not equipped to handle the animal as it matures. “Adopting” wild young animals may be an inviting scheme for some people, but wild animals typically make poor pets. Many people have been injured by animals that initially seemed easily tamed.

5. Good Intentions Can Be Deadly.

Many animals taken into captivity soon die. Those that don’t initially seem easily tamed.

Omnivore: Consumer of both animal and plant material.

Protein: PLate-like structure that covers the top of the thorax on insects.