



## “Wild Cottontails...”

If you find baby rabbits, whether in the nest or out, leave them alone!!!!!!! The mother rabbit only comes at night, which keeps predators from her babies. She forages for food all day and comes back in the evening to feed throughout the night. At 7 days of age, the baby's eyes open. At 10 days, the mother will still nurse them, but will also start to wean them. The babies will nibble on grasses, flowers, and clover. At 14 days, the young wander away from the nest, but will return to stay at night with each other. When bunnies are 4" or longer, they have left the nest for life!!!!!! If you think something has happened to the mother, place 2 sticks in a criss-cross pattern over the nest and place flour (baking) around the nest. You should do this around 8PM at night, for mom will

probably not show up until later when it's quiet. In the morning, check and see if there are footprints, or if the sticks have been moved. If not, the babies are orphaned and will need help from a Permitted Wildlife Rehabilitator!!!!!!!!!!

Please, do not attempt to nurse yourself, as they die easily from overfeeding and being fed cold. Warming them does not mean putting them in a box on a blanket, it means using a heat lamp, heating pad, or a direct heat source. Just like a human baby, they must be kept warm at all times or they will pass away. They die from stress, noise (even the sound of your voice, no matter how quiet you try to be), and handling by well-intentioned people. If fed wrong, they can aspirate the food, or liquid into their lungs, and it will kill them. So please, call a wildlife rehabilitator, who has been specially trained to deal with these situations and have the resources to handle any wildlife emergency that may arise!!!!!!!!!! This is truly the BEST thing you can do, if you REALLY want to help the animal.....

