

FOUND A BABY/YOUNG SQUIRREL?

Don't be surprised if one latches on to you and appears tame. It is what young squirrels often do when they have lost their mother. Unless you can see or hear another squirrel around, the chances are that the little creature has become separated from its mother and siblings. Think twice before leaving it alone, as it is almost definitely too young to fend for itself.

Sorry, but we can no longer publish our phone number here. We only fit squirrel rescue around our careers, and some people have been unpleasant because we haven't been able to drop everything and attend to them. Be assured if your e-mail is urgent, we will do our best to get back to you very quickly, but if it appears to be an emergency, do consult a vet, having checked first that they are sympathetic to squirrels. See the section on our website about vets.

Follow this advice carefully please.

Probably because we offer the best source of advice on squirrels in the UK, we are finding it very hard to cope. Squirrel Rescue is run by one small family in their spare time and sadly very few people ever think of sending a donation when we have helped them. Unlike the RSPCA we don't have any public funding and just about get by paying for most things ourselves, and with the help of a few kind souls.

Do not approach the RSPCA!

They have a shocking policy of euthanasia to any grey squirrel they take in, healthy or not. You could try a local vet, but the majority of them will either tell you to put it back where you found it (which will probably mean the squirrel will die) or will offer to kill it for you!

Check to see if there is any sign of the mother squirrel.

If you can reunite them, well done, but beware of cats, large birds and any other predators. Small squirrels can soon suffer hypothermia and die, so you don't have much time.

Warm the little creature up and then feed it.

Unless the squirrel is at least 12 weeks old it will need milk several times a day, or it can soon develop a Calcium deficiency resulting in seizures, paralysis and sometime death.

Once you have ascertained the approximate age and checked for dehydration (see under Squirrels in Distress) please **download the fact sheet Feeding Baby Squirrels** under our heading Looking After Squirrels in the bar at the top of our home page. Follow it as closely as you can to give the squirrel a fighting chance. There is so much conflicting stuff on the internet about squirrels and some of it is very bad advice indeed. We guarantee that over 90% of baby squirrels raised on our advice, if followed carefully, do survive. Please don't phone us up wondering why the squirrel is dying when you have fed it Lactol, baby milk or some other concoction, when all the advice you need is here! Please print it out and read it thoroughly.

Once you have given the squirrel a good start...

If you want us to find you a carer in your area where you can take it, please e-mail us with your postcode and a landline number. We won't phone mobile numbers unless it's an emergency, as our funds just don't stretch that far.

If you decide to look after it yourself

E-mail us with any enquiries, but if you are seriously worried about the squirrel's health, please do so quickly and mention that it is urgent, but bear in mind we may be at work, eating our dinner or otherwise trying to have a life, although we will get back to you as soon as we can. Never try to keep a squirrel as a pet, as it is cruel. **Don't worry about scare-mongering advice you may hear about what you are doing being illegal, or that hand-reared squirrels can't be released once weaned – they can!**

And please - if everyone we helped sent us a few pounds, it'd make a huge difference. We also run a sanctuary for squirrels that can't go back to the wild - and our running costs are quite daunting.