



## SQUIRREL BABIES

(SAME PROTOCOL CAN BE USED FOR CHIPMUNKS)

Newborn squirrels are hairless and mouse-sized. They look similar to mice, but a neonate squirrel's head is about the same size as the body, the forepaws are large, and the tail is very thick. A mouse, on the other hand, has a tiny head, very tiny paws, and a thin tail. A mouse's muzzle is thin and tapered, in contrast to a squirrel's, which is thick. Baby squirrels frequently fall out of the nest due to storms and people trimming trees. Wildlife mothers are very devoted to their offspring, however, and won't forget about them. In many cases, the mother will retrieve the babies if the following techniques are applied. If the baby appears healthy, try these ideas:

### NEWBORN SQUIRRELS AKA "PINKIES"

These babies will need a heat source. Using a men's long sock, or a knee high nylon, and fill the sock with dry rice – any kind, just uncooked. Microwave the sock filled with rice for 1-3 minutes until it is very warm to the touch but not scalding. Place the rice sock in the shoebox or other small container under the babies, making sure that they are not directly on top of the sock. Cover the sock with a non-terrycloth towel, scrunching the edges up against the inside of the box to form a nest. Place the baby or babies in the box and place it at the bottom of the tree where they were found, or in the crotch of the tree if the box can be wedged so it won't blow down. Keep pets and kids away from the area and watch from a window or quietly from a distance. The squirrels don't have to be watched constantly. Return after a couple of hours and if the babies are still there, call the Wildlife Hotline for further instructions.

### JUVENILE SQUIRRELS (HAVE FUR BUT NO FLUFFY TAILS YET) AKA "JUVIES" OR "SILKYS"

Place a small cardboard box at the bottom of the tree where the baby was found, or in the crotch of the tree if it can be wedged so it won't blow down. Using a men's long sock, or a knee high nylon, and fill the sock with dry rice – any kind, just uncooked. Microwave the sock filled with rice for 1-3 minutes until it is very warm to the touch but not scalding. Place the rice sock in the shoebox or other small container under the babies, making sure that they are not directly on top of the sock, but these squirrels will be old enough to move toward the heat if they need it. Place a non-terrycloth towel or cloth in the bottom of the box. Keep pets and kids away and check several hours later. If the baby is still there, call the Wildlife Hotline for further instructions.

### SIGNS OF TROUBLE:

- It is cold and lethargic
- It is covered with parasites (fleas, fly strike or ticks)
- It is screaming in a high pitch over & over (this is a distress call for mother)
- It has been in a dog or cat's mouth
- It has a broken limb
- It has abrasions
- It is having difficulty breathing (gaspings, gurgling)
- Its coat is matted and/or patchy
- It has a head tilt
- It is exhibiting odd behavior (circling, falling over, etc.)
- It is bleeding

If the squirrel is showing any of the above symptoms, call the Wildlife Hotline immediately for transport instructions. **Even baby squirrels can bite really HARD, depending on how young they are. So if you must handle a fully furred squirrel, chipmunk, or groundhog, wear heavy leather gloves and touch it as little as possible.**

