I Cut Down a Tree and There Were Baby Squirrels

Flint Creek
Wildlife Rehabilitation®

I Cut Down a Tree and There Were Baby Squirrels

How many babies did you find?

1-2

Sometimes squirrels nest in leaf nests but they are also frequently cavity nesters. Check the tree for any holes that could have been nesting spots and remove any babies you find. It is common that only one or two babies were ejected from the cavity as the tree fell and that the others are still in the cavity. Tree squirrels almost always have 3-4 babies, so if you found 1-2 babies, you are almost definitely missing one or more. Make sure you look for cavities before cutting up the tree trunk or limbs!

3-4

If you found four babies, you probably have all of them. If you found three babies, you should check the area really well just to be sure that you didn't miss one and also check the tree for cavities to see if a baby was not ejected from the cavity. Sometimes squirrels nest in leaf nests but they are also frequently cavity nesters. The cavity is a hole in side of the tree. Make sure you look for cavities before cutting up the tree trunk or limbs!

Are the babies injured?

YES

Place the injured baby squirrel(s) in a small box that is loosely filled with soft bedding such as fleece, flannel or soft cotton so that the baby squirrels are nestled into the middle of the bedding. Cover the box to eliminate drafts. Keep the baby squirrels warm. It is easiest to keep the babies warm by placing a heating pad set to LOW temperature under the box. If you don't have a heating pad, you may place a cup of rice into a cotton sock and microwave it for a minute. Place the rice sock at the other end of the box with bedding between the baby squirrels and the box. Make sure you do not overheat the rice as you don't want to burn the babies. **DO NOT FEED OR GIVE WATER!!!** The baby squirrels can survive for quite some time without food or water and the risk of you killing them by feeding them improperly is very high. **Call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.**

NO

Place the uninjured baby squirrels in a shoe box or other shallow box no more than 4" deep. The box should have soft bedding such as fleece, flannel or soft cotton below the babies but leave the babies uncovered from the top so that Mom Squirrel can see them. Place the box on the tree stump where the tree formerly stood and leave the area. Leave the squirrels there for 2 hours if furless and pink, 2-3 hours if furless and grey, 4-6 hours if furred but never leave them out in the rain or after dark! If the babies are still there after the specified period of time, bring the baby squirrels inside. Loosely fill the top of the box with fleece, flannel or soft cotton so that the babies are nestled into the middle of the bedding. Cover the box to eliminate drafts. Keep the baby squirrels warm. It is easiest to keep the babies warm by placing a heating pad set to LOW temperature under the box. If you don't have a heating pad, you may place a cup of rice into a cotton sock and microwave it for a minute. Place the rice sock at the other end of the box with bedding between the baby squirrels and the box. Make sure you do not overheat the rice as you don't want to burn the babies. **DO NOT FEED OR GIVE WATER!!!** The baby squirrels can survive for quite some time without food or water and the risk of you killing them by feeding them improperly is very high. **Call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.**

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