



RACCOONS

KEY FACTS:

- Raccoons are born between March and June. Gestation is about 65 days. An average litter is 4.
- At birth, raccoons are born with a little fur and the beginning signs of a mask. The ears and eyes are closed.
- At 1 week- Raccoons begin to move around. Eyes and ears are still closed. Umbilicus falls off.
- At 2 weeks-Begin to see the eye slits, mask is noticeable. They start to make noise.
- At 3 weeks- Eyes are beginning to open and appear blue.
- At 4 weeks- Eyes and ears are fully open. They can crawl and respond to sounds.
- At 5 weeks- Raccoons can climb and move around on their own and can see better.



Wildlife Rehabilitators' Association of Massachusetts

NESTS

Nests are usually in tree hollows, chimneys, attics, barns and under buildings.

If baby raccoons are found alone or wandering and look too young to be on their own:

Raccoon mothers are great parents and stay with their young. However, they are sometimes separated from the babies if the mother is evicted from an attic or other nest area. The best strategy is to try to reunite the young with their mother.

If the mother is still in the area

Watch to see if the mother is in the area.

While raccoons are usually nocturnal, mothers can be seen out in the day, especially during baby animal season.

Place the babies in a box or container with a heat source (a sock filled with rice and heated in the microwave, a hot water bottle).

Mother raccoons will often follow the same path to their nests. Place the box or container as close to the original nest as possible or try to place the babies in her path.

Raccoons are a **Rabies Vector Species**. Always wear gloves when handling wildlife.

Raccoons carry a roundworm parasite called "Baylisascaris Procyonis". The parasite rarely causes harm to raccoons but can travel to the brain and cause neurologic disease in other animals and HUMANS. The only way to kill the parasite eggs is extreme heat.

If the mother does not return, call a wildlife rehabilitator.

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/find-a-wildlife-rehabilitator>

