

Answers to the questions I have been asked the most--- and a few cool tips!

1. **I saw this fawn in the woods alone, and its mom left it to die, what should I do?**



- a. Nothing-the fawn's mother in all likelihood did not abandon it.

If you see a fawn that appears to be abandoned, odds are it has not been, so let it be. Most likely its mother is away eating and drinking. From birth newborn fawns have almost no body odor and their reddish brown coat with white spots make young fawns almost invisible to predators.

Since fawns have nearly no odor, and their natural instinct is "freeze behavior" for the first two weeks of their lives, it is unlikely they will be found by dogs or coyotes (unless tripped over). Staying with her fawn would give away its hiding place, so mother deer distance themselves when feeding. In addition, Fawns hold their feces and urine until the mother arrives, at which point she ingests whatever the fawn voids to eliminate any sign of the fawn that predators might detect.

2. **A baby bird fell out of its nest in a tree in our yard, and I know if I touch it the mom won't take care of it anymore, what should I do?**

- a. Put the baby back in the nest it fell from.

Song birds will take care of their own young, and often other birds' young too---this is how some invasive species like cowbirds multiply. They lay their eggs in other species nests---so the other species spend their time and energy raising baby cowbirds. Also – songbirds have weak senses of smell---they're not likely to smell you on their baby anyway---and using gloves is always a safer way to touch a wild animal to protect you AND the animal.



3. **I heard the daddy long legs is the most poisonous spider in the world – but that its jaws are just too small to pierce skin, is this true?**

- a. Two Parts:

- i. First, spiders and snakes are **VENOMOUS** – they inject something into their victim that induces illness or death. **POISONOUS** refers to something injected/eaten that makes

the victim ill or causes death such as mushrooms, berries or certain frogs and insects that secrete toxins.

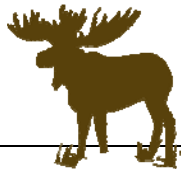
- ii. Secondly, the chart below shows the difference between a true spider and the harvestmen---commonly called “daddy long legs”.

<u>Daddy Long Legs (Harvestmen)</u>	<u>Daddy Long Legs Spider (Cellar spider)</u>
Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Arthropoda Class: Arachnida Subclass: Dromopoda Opiliones Order: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Jakob_Sundevall	Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Arthropoda Class: Arachnida Order: Araneae Suborder: Araneomorphae Superfamily: Pholcoidea Pholcidae Family: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Ludwig_Koch
Fused abdomen and cephalothorax that appears as one body	Separate abdomen and cephalothorax
8 legs	8 legs
No web	Spinnerets/ability to make silk
Does not produce venom (debunked as most venomous by Bill Nye and Mythbusters)	Venom harmless to humans
Worldwide range	Every continent but Antarctica






4. Is there a difference between antlers and horns?

<u>Antlers</u> (Cervidae-deer, elk, moose, caribou)	<u>Horns</u> (Bovidae-Cows, antelope, rams, buffalo, yak)
Bony	Keratin sheath over bone
Branched tines	Single tine (except pronghorn antelope)
Annually Shed	Permanent, often grow continuously
Males only (except caribou)	Males and large species females
Grow from pedicels (bony support on frontal bones)	Ossicones (do not grow from skull, but fuse to the frontal bones)
Velvet	No velvet (only pronghorn sheds its sheath annually)
Used for competition with males for females	Males use for strength competitions, females for stabbing/defense
Antlers often shrink/disappear in cervids if large canine teeth develop.	Exceptions include giraffes (occur between parietal and frontal bones and are covered with skin and hair), rhinos (no core or sheath, hair-like bundles of epidermal cells, occur at nasal bone, and in 2 horn species also over frontal bone)



5. Are there physical traits that make it possible to tell the difference between a carnivore and herbivore?

<u>Carnivore</u> (owls, hawks, wolves, bobcats, pike, bass, weasels, sea lions, frogs)	<u>Omnivore</u> (Humans-although we can choose to be vegan/vegetarian, otters, brown bear, skunk, blue jay, raccoon, crow (sometimes deer and other small mammals---they may eat insects))	<u>Herbivore</u> (deer, moose, hummingbirds, grasshoppers, rabbits, fruit bats)
		
Sharp, pointy teeth, and/or claws, beaks.	Sharp, pointy teeth and flat teeth for grinding	Sharp flat front teeth for clipping, flat teeth for grinding
Large eyes in the front/hunt	Varies to follow their predominant niche.	Eyes on the side/hide
Predators or carrion/insect eaters (some are also prey-think fish, birds, eggs)	Predator and/or prey	Prey
Camouflage to conceal themselves during stalking like brown weasels, patterned spiders and pike/raptors dark on top and white on the bottom.		Camouflage to hide, or bright colors (birds/butterflies) to lead predators away and show off during mating season.
Large space for jaw (masseter) muscle under the eye.		Much smaller jaw muscle.