

## **A Crash Course on Bunnies**

There are two types of wild rabbits in the Phoenix area: Jackrabbits (which are actually hares) and Cottontails.

### ***How do I know the difference?***

Jackrabbits are born with their eyes open, fully furred, and able to run. Cottontails are born naked, blind, and helpless.

Contrary to popular belief, touching a baby bunny will not make the parents reject it. Stress usually drives the mother off when curious people poke around the nest site too often. If you find a nest of baby cottontails, don't kidnap them because you do not see the mother around. The mother only comes to the nest twice a day to feed the babies (early morning and dusk)

**Hint: Put two crossed strings over the nest to see if it is disturbed. If the strings remain intact, then the babies are orphans.**

Keep all injured and orphaned bunnies warm on a heating pad in a secure, **covered** box with a towel lining the bottom. Make sure the heating pad cord is outside the box as the bunny will chew on it.

### **Yes, they are adorable, but....**

Do NOT handle the animal any more than necessary and don't let children handle it.

Don't keep peeking in the box as stress alone can cause the bunny to die. Put the box in a dark, quiet place away from pets, noise, and family traffic.

Never force food or water down a bunny's throat, especially if he is cold or dehydrated.

It's very easy to aspirate a bunny if fluid gets into his lungs. No food is better than feeding the wrong food which can cause bloating, illness, and a painful death.

Never use sugar or Karo syrup in the food or water, which can cause bacterial growth.

NEVER feed a baby bunny cow's milk!

Contact East Valley Wildlife for help. We have rehabbers who specialize in rearing baby bunnies and will keep your 'foundling' alive and healthy.