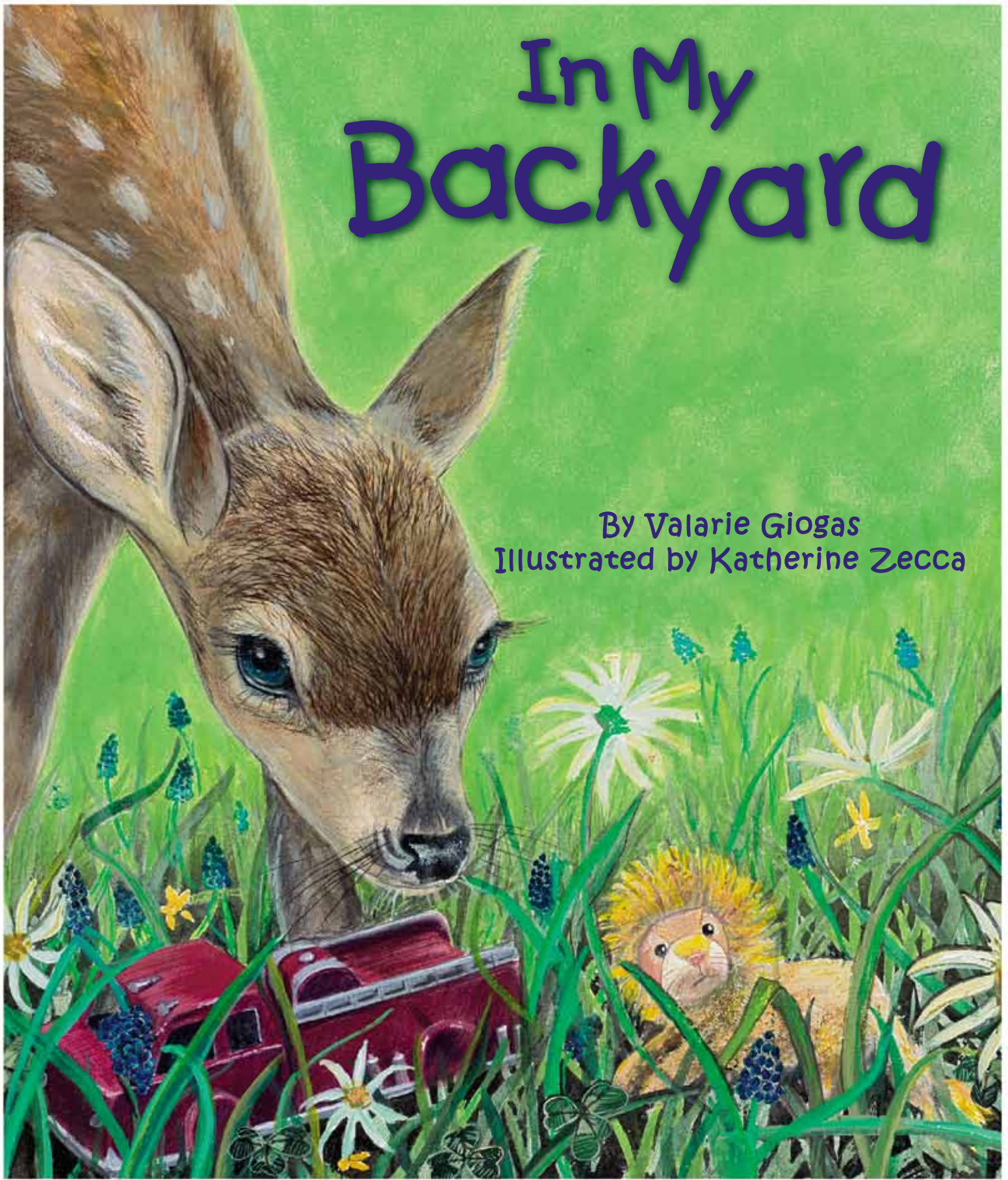


In My Backyard

By Valarie Giogas
Illustrated by Katherine Zecca



In My Backyard

Baby dogs are puppies and they belong to a litter, but what are baby skunks called and what is the name of their group? This clever, rhythmic story tells us just that! Counting from one to ten, the story introduces familiar backyard animals by baby and family group names.

It's so much more than a picture book . . . this book is specifically designed to be both a fun-to-read story and a launch pad for discussions and learning. Whether read at home or in a classroom, we encourage adults to do the activities with the young children in their lives. Free online resources and support at www.ArbordalePublishing.com include:

- For Creative Minds as seen in the book (in English & Spanish):
 - Animal counting and fun fact cards:
 - Deer
 - Squirrels
 - Rabbits
 - Skunks
 - Foxes
 - Porcupines
 - Raccoons
 - Moles
 - Snakes
 - Grasshoppers
 - Animal signs all around you
 - Caring for wildlife around you
 - What to do if you find an injured animal
- Teaching Activities:
 - Reading Questions
 - Language Arts
 - Science
 - Mathematics
 - Geography
 - Coloring Pages
- Interactive Quizzes: Reading Comprehension, For Creative Minds, and Math Word Problems
- English and Spanish Audiobooks
- Related Websites
- Aligned to State Standards (searchable database)
- Accelerated Reader and Reading Counts! Quizzes
- Lexile and Fountas & Pinnell Reading Levels

eBooks with Auto-Flip, Auto-Read, and selectable English and Spanish text and audio available for purchase online.

Thanks to Sherry Crawley, Director of Education at Zoo Atlanta and to Helen Fischel, Associate Director of Education at the Delaware Nature Society for verifying the accuracy of the information in the book. And thanks to Caryl Widdowson of Safe & Sound Wildlife Rehabilitation (ME) for her help with the rehabilitation section.

Valarie Giogas (pronounced JOE-gus) has been writing for children ever since she discovered that she could combine her love for children's literature with her passion for writing. The idea for *In My Backyard* began when her son was in preschool. They always drove by a gaggle of geese and he would giggle when she told him the group name. When the geese had goslings, the idea for this book was affirmed. A member of the Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Valarie has also written articles for Hopscotch Magazine. Valarie and her family live in a suburb of Boston.

Katherine Zecca loves to illustrate animals of all kinds. In addition to *In My Backyard*, she wrote and illustrated *Puffin's Year* and illustrated *River Song* with the Banana Slug String Band and *Why Puppies Do That*. As a scientific illustrator, she created award-winning art for NOAA and the National Zoo.



Valarie Giogas

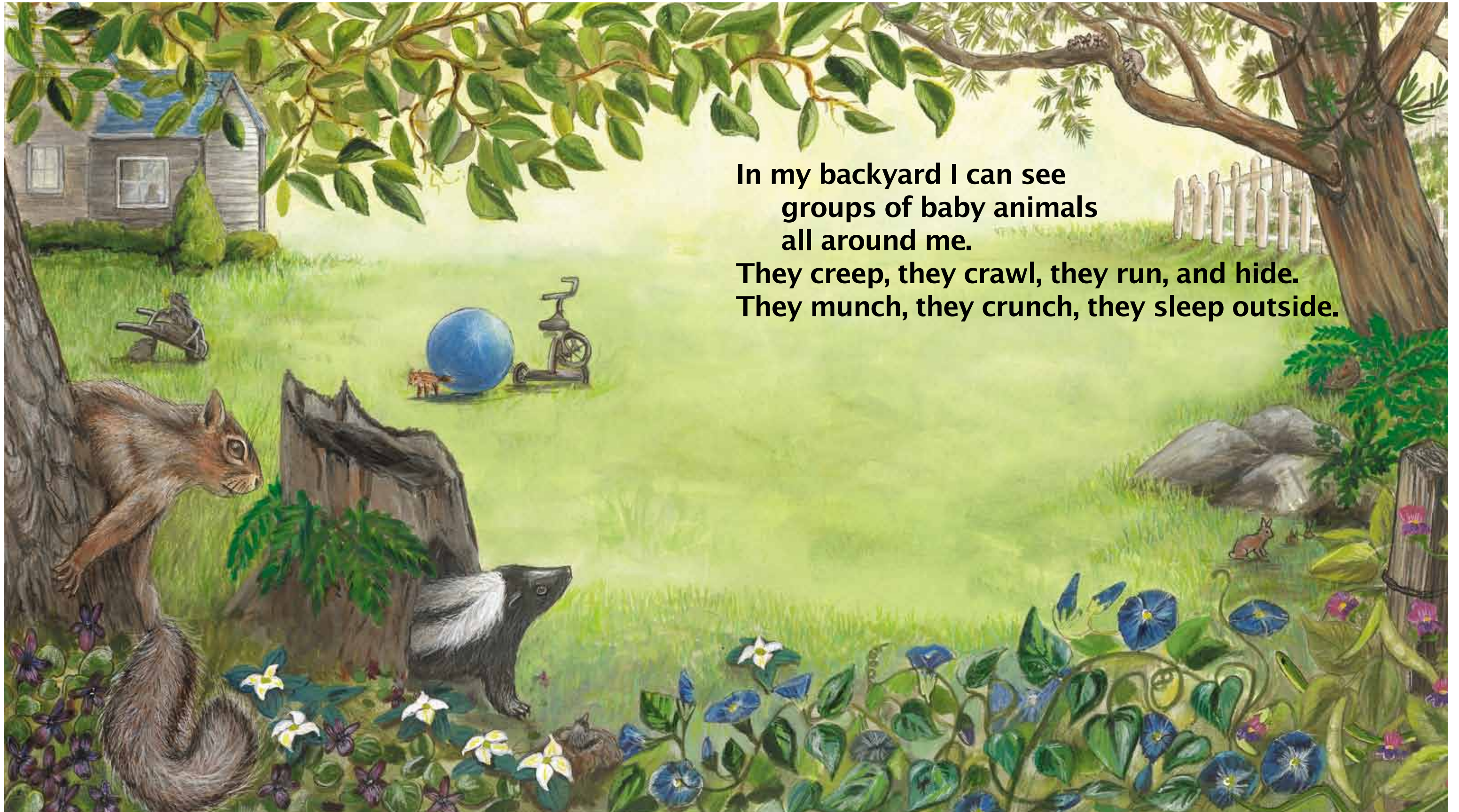


Katherine Zecca

In My Backyard

By Valarie Giogas
Illustrated by Katherine Zecca





**In my backyard I can see
groups of baby animals
all around me.**

**They creep, they crawl, they run, and hide.
They munch, they crunch, they sleep outside.**



**In my backyard I can see
one doe's fawn
peeking at me.
He sees me through the leaves and brush,
then runs to mama in a rush.**

1



2

In my backyard I can see
a prickle of two pups
grunting at me.

They gnaw on rusty hoes and rakes,
then chew on twigs and tree bark flakes.



For Creative Minds

The For Creative Minds educational section may be photocopied or printed from our website by the owner of this book for educational, non-commercial uses. Cross-curricular teaching activities, interactive quizzes, and more are available online. Go to www.ArbordalePublishing.com and click on the book's cover to explore all the links.

Photocopy or download the following pages from the **In My Backyard** homepage at www.ArbordalePublishing.com onto heavy or regular paper. If using as a memory game, make two copies. Cut each page into cards and have the children put into numerical order. Please do not write in or cut the book.



1

Deer have an excellent sense of smell as well as good hearing and eyesight.



2

Porcupine pups are born with soft quills that become hard within an hour.



3

Squirrels gather and bury nuts for winter. If the nuts are not eaten, they may grow into trees!



4

Raccoons are excellent climbers and can climb down a tree head first.



5

Rabbits "talk" to each other through smell and touch.



6

Moles have bad eyesight, but they can hear insects from a distance and have a good sense of smell.



7

Skunks are only born in the spring. The kits are almost blind and don't have fur.



8

Snakes that are born alive are called snakelets. If they come from eggs, they are called hatchlings. They smell by flicking their tongues in and out.



9

Foxes are good tree climbers. Many are good swimmers and can run up to twenty miles per hour.



10

Grasshopper nymphs look like little adult grasshoppers without wings.

1

a fawn is a baby deer



2

pups are baby porcupines



3

pups are baby squirrels



4

cubs are baby raccoons



5

bunnies are baby rabbits



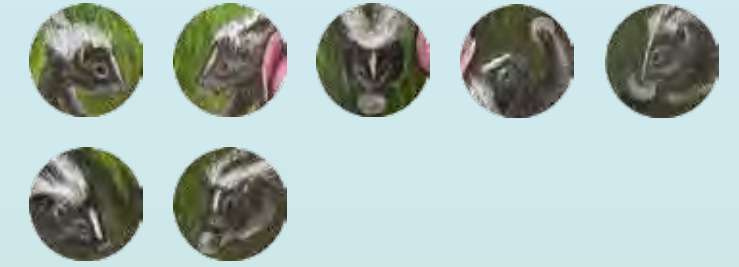
6

pups are baby moles



7

kits are baby skunks



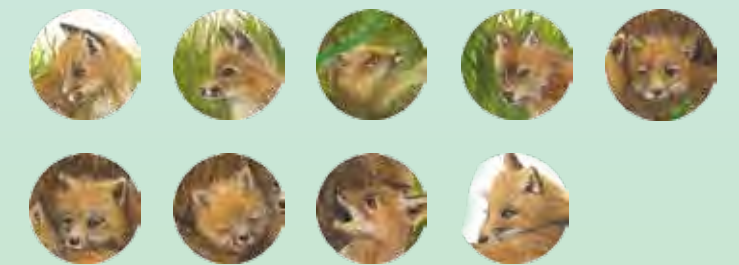
8

hatchlings are baby snakes



9

pups are baby foxes



10

nymphs are baby grasshoppers



Animal Signs All Around You

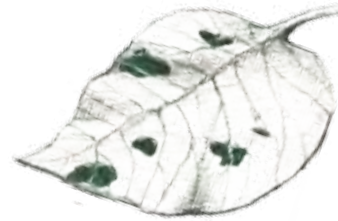
Animals leave “signs” that show they were there. Find a nature spot: your backyard, a park, or a nature center. See how many “animal signs” you can find. Here are just a few:



scat (poop)



pieces of homes
(bird nests, spider webs, etc.)



broken or chewed
plants



chewed pinecones,
nuts or tree bark



tracks



feathers, shells, or
bones

Caring For Wildlife Around You

Some or all of the animals mentioned in this book may live or pass through your yard, even if you never see them! What can you do to protect wild animals?

- Keep pets inside.
- Please pick up your trash—especially plastic. Wild animals may eat the trash and get sick.
- Don't touch any wild animals; they are just that—wild!
- Don't try to keep them or to make them pets.
- Feed and watch birds but don't feed other wild animals.

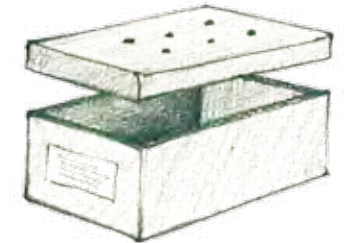
What to Do If You Find an Injured Animal

Wildlife rehabilitators are people who care for injured wild animals and nurse them back to health. It is always a good idea to look up and find a wildlife rehabilitator in your area before you need one! Check online, look in the phone book, or ask a veterinarian.

If the animal is alert and big enough to harm you, call the wildlife rehabilitator or your local animal control. Let professionals help the animal.

If the animal is small, of no danger to you, and looks like it may be nursed back to health, try to get it to a rehabilitator:

- Wear gloves or wrap the animal in a towel so that you don't touch it. Remember that the animal, if conscious, will be scared and may try to claw or bite. An unconscious animal could wake up any time.
- If it is cold, place a heating pad on low or a ziplock bag of very warm water in part of a box (so the animal can move away from the heat if necessary) and put a towel or blanket on top of the heat source. Place the injured animal on top of the warm side, on top of the towel or blanket.
- Tightly cover the box, but please make sure that there are ventilation holes for the animal to breathe.
- Do NOT try to feed the animal.
- If you think an animal is orphaned, leave it alone until you are positive that the mother is not returning. It is normal for animal parents to leave to get food, sometimes for several hours or even all day. If, however, you know that the mother is dead, call a wildlife rehabilitator or wildlife expert to get the animal.



If you enjoy this book,
look for other Arbordale books that may also be of interest:



Giogas, Valarie.
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p. : col. ill. ; cm.

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3. Animals--Infancy. 4. Counting. 5. Stories in rhyme.
- I. Zecca, Katherine. II. Title.

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