

I found a baby porcupine – what do I do?

Look for mum!

- Baby porcupines (porcupettes) are reliant on their mothers for survival during the first few months of life and will not stray far from their mother. Often if a mother is foraging in a tree, the baby will be waiting on the ground below.
- If you see a porcupette alone and do not find an adult porcupine within an hour, call us for help!

- Mothers will not reject their young if there is a human scent on them! If you have moved a porcupine but see mum nearby, just put them back and the young will reunite with their mother.
- Porcupines do not shoot their quills! They will detach and embed themselves easily once contact is made.

Myth Busting!

Porcupine Facts

- Porcupettes are born with hair, their eyes open, and their quills harden with 24-hours of birth.
- Female porcupines typically only give birth to one porcupette each summer.
- Porcupines can swim! Their quills are hollow, which helps with their buoyancy.
- Porcupines do not have quills on their stomachs, so if they cannot get away from a predator fast enough, they will curl into a ball for protection.
- Porcupines are herbivores and generally remain close to trees. They are great climbers!
- Porcupines do not hibernate, and eat mostly tree bark in the winter.



Porcupines vs. Pets

- If your dog attacks a porcupine and gets quilled, please call us if the porcupine is injured so they can also receive medical support.
- If your cat attacks a baby porcupine, call us even if they appear uninjured. Cats have bacteria in their saliva that will cause infection and illness, and if left untreated, their victim will die.

Have questions concerning injured or orphaned wildlife?
Call our **Wildlife Hotline: 403-946-2361.**