

The **Doe**
Family Finds **A**
Deer

by
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Dedication

This book is dedicated to all animal rehabbers who have spent and will spend thousands of thankless hours caring for, feeding, mending, curing, and nurturing wildlife to release them back into their natural environments and then pray that they can once again survive there.

It takes a worldwide army to educate the public, to take all of the calls for help and rescue, to transport all of the animals, and to care for the injured, orphaned, and kidnapped wildlife.

Thank you for always caring for God's creatures and for doing anything you can to help them and us.

"Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

Saint Francis of Assisi





The Doe family lives in a beautiful, quaint small town in the Piedmont region of North Carolina. Their house is down a long, winding gravel road. Dad John, Mom Jane, nine-year-old Sally, and twelve-year-old Billy love to take their daily walk down that rural road to their mailbox for an adventure.



On one particular beautiful spring day, they were all walking down the road to get their mail. Out of the corner of his eye, Billy spotted something in the grass. He waited and watched and couldn't believe his eyes. It was the tiniest, most adorable baby deer he had ever seen. And it was lying there all alone on the side of the road nestled on the grass.

"Oh my!" Billy yelled. "We have to take it home and keep it because the mother has left it all alone."



The Does looked all around and didn't see the fawn's mother anywhere, so they gently carried the fawn back to their home. Only then did they try to decide what to do next. First they did some research on the Internet and found out many interesting facts. They discovered that different states have different laws about keeping baby wild deer. And they found out that in North Carolina, it's against the law to keep a baby deer unless you are a North Carolina-permitted fawn rehabber.

They also found out that fawns don't drink milk and that they require a special formula to eat. In another Internet article, they discovered that fawns are often left alone by their mothers (the does). Fawns cannot be fed by humans, or their mothers may not take them back.

"We have a really difficult decision to make," John told his family. "Do we keep the fawn and try to 'rescue' it? Or do we take it back to where we found it and see if its mother will come back for it?"



What would you do?



What do you think is the best choice?

Jane and the Doe children thought that the fawn was too cute. And the kids were crying and pleading with their parents to please let them keep it. They wanted to see the fawn grow up with them and to get to feed it and play with it.

Dad knew that it probably was not the best idea to keep the fawn. But he figured it wouldn't really hurt anything if they just fed and kept it for a while. *After all, yes, it was against the law in North Carolina. But how bad could the penalty be?*

"I don't think anyone cares if we keep it for a while," said Dad as they all headed off to the store to buy some supplies.

