

Mineola woman nurses animals to good health before setting them free

By KC MCGINNIS

Correspondent

Deer Kisses, she calls them.

Crouching down to feed a young fawn in her backyard, Jan Faraci explained her daily routine of feeding the young deer some milk and letting the animal thankfully lick her face and neck afterward.

"Not very many wildlife rehabilitators let their fawns do this," she said, "but I think it's necessary."

Faraci, an independent wildlife rehabilitator, spends most of her time

causing for and rescuing animals that have either been separated from their mothers or have been injured by hunters, cars, fires, and other causes.

Though Faraci has been a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for seven years, rescuing animals has been a lifelong routine.

"I grew up on a farm and we were always rescuing something," said Faraci.

The Mineola resident takes in dozens of injured and displaced mammals, birds, reptiles, raccoons, deer, squirrels, rabbits, and other animals

whose chances of surviving in the wild have grown small. She then brings the animals to health in stable habitats built in and around her home with the goal of eventually releasing them back into the wild.

Most of the animals she takes in are young deer and raccoons whose mothers have either been killed or injured, leaving the babies defenseless.

"I always want to save the babies and return them to the wild," said Faraci.

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Jan Faraci

Animal Rehabilitator

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Aside from the many domesticated cats and dogs that roam and relax in and around her home, Faraci usually cares for

care of her animals, she is careful not to pamper them. Few of the wild animals at her home have names and none of them

with saving wild animals, especially young ones, is determining when they are in danger to