

# Spring Is Time for Cuddly Young Animals But Don't Touch!

By DAVE VUGRENES

Spring in Alaska's south-east, as elsewhere, is the time of new buds, blooms, "spring fever" and baby wild animals. The blossoms are beautiful and the wild babies are cute.

Enjoy nature's wonders—but **DON'T TOUCH!**

Everyone has the desire to hug one of the small cuddly creatures. To do so may result in tragedy for the baby or for the violator. If a person, however innocently, breaks this law of wild things, he may find himself in serious trouble.

Mother animals leave their young for hours at a time. A baby, found alone, usually means that "mama" is off

searching for food or perhaps she is leading some danger away from her young. Baby animals stay hidden until mother returns and she may—at any time—unexpectedly.

All mothers of babies can be the most terrible and ferocious things alive. Each year people are maimed or killed simply because they violated the law and picked up a wild baby.

Besides the obvious threat to one's person, is the threat to the baby. Because of the "man smell", many wild animals will abandon their young to starve and die.

With these things in mind—please—**DON'T TOUCH THE WILD BABIES.** Give them and yourself a break.