

Leave Young Animals Alone

Baby animals will make their debut in about a week, according to Frank Jones, Regional Game Supervisor, Arctic Interior, Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

The first young moose and caribou will be born this month. Black bear and grizzly cubs were born this winter while the mothers were in hibernation, and will make their presence known as the warm weather arrives.

This spells problems for the Fish & Game Department, as often unthinking citizens kidnap small animals and take them home for pets.

Last year the Fairbanks office handled a number of young moose, black bears, wolves, coyotes and lynx which were taken from people who had picked them up in the wilds, carted them home,

and were then puzzled on how to care for them.

Jones said it is illegal to pick up baby animals and is often dangerous, as the mother is usually hidden from sight nearby. Wild mothers sometimes leave their youngsters for extended periods of time, but this does not mean they are abandoned.

Last year one man narrowly averted a serious accident when an irate mother moose charged and ran over him.

Jones said if young orphaned animals are found, do not pick them up, but call the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.