

# Cute babies not abandoned

That cute little baby animal you find in the grass may appear to be abandoned, but chances are it's just fine.

Leave it alone. It's better for the baby, wildlife officials say.

"Mom is often within eyesight or ear shot," said Mike Hopper, wildlife conservation officer in Sherman County. "It is best to leave the babies alone. Let Mother Nature take care of Mother Nature."

It's not true that once a baby animal is touched by a human and has that smell, the mother will abandon it, he said, but it's still not a good idea. There are baby deer, rabbit, raccoons, opossums, skunks and birds from April 1 to June 1, the game warden said.

"I get two to eight calls a season on orphaned deer," Hopper said. "I got a dozen calls on skunks last week."

It's illegal to keep wild animals especially skunks, opossums and raccoons, he said. They can carry diseases that people could possibly catch. A special permit and license is needed to keep them.

He said this time of the year, he always gets lots of calls on skunks. Skunks are out looking for food to feed their young, he said, and there are a lot of skunks.

Skunks like to eat insects and grubs, he said, but pet food left outside will draw them. Don't leave dog or cat food out at night, he advised. Spray your yard for grubs. Fill any holes around the foundation of the house and keep the trash picked up.

Skunks are more active at dawn, dusk and at night, he said. If there

are skunks around, make a noise to let them know you are there. Rabies is a big concern, especially with skunks, so stay away.

Anyone who uses a live trap to catch a cat or squirrel is responsible to check it and take care of any animals caught in it, Hopper said. By law, if a person sets a trap, he has to check it every 24 hours. If it is placed on your own property, no license is required.

Hopper said he recommends using repellents to keep squirrels away rather than traps.

There is a regular fur bearers season in the fall to late winter on badger, bobcat, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, swift and red fox, gray fox, striped skunk and weasel, said Hopper.

Deer, antelope, rabbit, coyote and pheasants suffered significant losses from the winter storms, he said. We will have to wait to see what the numbers are at the end of the summer.

Predatory birds such as hawks, owl, eagles and vultures are protected and should be left alone, Hopper said. It's wise not to bother reptiles such as snakes and turtles, he said, adding that some turtles have a nasty disposition.

There are also bats in the area. Most bats in Kansas migrate in the winter, Hopper said. Bats are really good in insect control but can carry rabies.

If you have wildlife problems, call 899-5100 or contact central dispatch at 890-4575. Hopper said he is particularly interested in reports of sick or injured animals.

## House to go



Traffic stopped along Business U.S. 24 about 2 p.m. on Thursday to allow a wide-load house to pass through. The two-section house, built by Wardcraft Homes of Minden, Neb., was heading somewhere in Colorado. City police escorted the sections and auxiliary vehicles through town, which took about 10 minutes. The house came through from Clay Center and came down

U.S. 24 heading to Burlington. The house was on old U.S. 24 because it was more of a direct route and would connect back with U.S. 24 at the state line. The sections were 32 foot by 54 foot and 32 foot by 50 foot and both were 17 foot, 6 inches high.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

# Colby doctor's license reinstated by state

By Patty Decker

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The state Board of Healing Arts reinstated a Colby doctor's license Saturday after the doctor agreed to restrictions and monitoring of his practice, especially delivery of babies and use of steroids.

Dr. Victor H. Hildyard, 59, a family practitioner at Colby Medical and Surgical Center, and his attorney, Mike O'Neal of Hutchinson, reached an agreement with the board to stay a revocation order that took effect more than four months ago.

Among other things, the agreement requires Dr. Hildyard to undergo complete medical and psychiatric evaluation.

"Dr. Hildyard's reinstatement is effective today," O'Neal said. "He looks forward to getting back into the office and getting back to the delivery of quality health care in the community and surrounding area."

"I am extremely grateful for and humbled by the huge outpouring of support from patients and friends during this unfortunate ordeal," Hildyard said.

Mark Stafford, general counsel for the board, said "the board is very hopeful that Dr. Hildyard will use this opportunity to provide competent professional services to the community in an honorable manner."

The order of reinstatement imposes limitations and conditions on the doctor's license designed to address the problems identified in the August 2006 order of revocation, Stafford said.

"These limitations were the result of a cooperative effort by the board and the doctor to allow his return to practice."

The key terms of the agreement resolving the dispute, O'Neal said involved releasing the board and its individual members from any claims for damages.

Hildyard also agreed to dismiss his pending appeal of the revocation. He agreed to "appropriate clinical and psychological evaluations, limitations on managing labor and deliveries, monitoring of his steroid practice and continuing medical education course work."

"The consent order," O'Neal

said, "acknowledges the ongoing dispute between Dr. Hildyard and the board (of healing arts) over legal issues that arose during the case."

"I believe that ultimately Dr. Hildyard would have prevailed on most, if not all issues raised on appeal. Had the decision been ours alone to make, the appeal would proceed."

He said because of financial concerns and overwhelming support and encouragement from Hildyard's patients, the doctor was willing to reach an agreement that returns him to his practice as soon as possible.

An appeal could have taken another year, he said.

"On behalf of Dr. Hildyard, I appreciated the board's willingness to weigh its risk in defending the appeal and agreeing to terms which have the doctor returning to his practice with a minimum of conditions or restrictions," O'Neal said.

O'Neal said Hildyard welcomed the monitoring of steroid use since there are no established standards.

"He already has the monitoring mechanism set up, having antici-

ipated the decision to reinstate his license," O'Neal said. "While the doctor does not see the need for or expense of further evaluations, as one completed in Colorado during the case gave him a clean bill of health, he does not object to the board requiring evaluations as part of the agreement."

The board voted to revoke Hildyard's license in August, but did not sign off on the order until December, when Judge Jack Burr of Goodland heard a lawsuit he filed in the Thomas County District Court. In its order, the board concluded that Hildyard's license should be revoked based on evidence that he was a substantial threat to the public's health and welfare, Stafford said at the time.

Judge Burr at first stayed the board's decision, but after an appeal to the state Supreme Court by the board, upheld the board's decision, saying the court could not second-guess an agency decision that is within the agency's authority, even if it is claimed to be too severe.

# Service wants to take technology to field

Taking technology to the field is the idea behind the concept of a "mobile" conservation service office, and Colby is one of 15 in a new statewide pilot project.

Customer service using the mobile office enables U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service employees to use technology and scientific information to help landowners address needs and meet conservation goals for their land.

State Conservationist Harold Klaege said he decided it was time to free the employees from the office and allow them to do more conservation planning where it should be done, on the grasslands and croplands of Kansas.

"Today, with the latest portable equipment at their fingertips, such as laptop computers, Geographic Information System technology, printers, cell phones and more," Klaege said, "field staff can meet with a farmer or rancher on the land and develop a conservation plan on-site."

Chris Tecklenburg, rangeland management specialist at the South Hutchinson field office, is one of 15 Kansas conservation employees participating in the statewide project.

Other "mobile" locations include Colby, Gove, Stockton, Ness City, Dodge City, Ulysses, Belleville, Kingman, Oskaloosa, Marion, Eureka and El Dorado.

Using the mobile system, Klaege said, employees are able to provide immediate access to natural resource information such as soils, range sites, aerial photography

maps, and Field Office Technical Guide information to help farmers develop a conservation plan on-site.

Tecklenburg and other mobile employees will be able to assist farmers like Derek Zongker, Sylvia, who lives 40 miles from his conservation service county office. Zongker has worked with the service for seven years to address conservation needs on his grazing land.

"Any time you're able to go out on the ground and actually see what it is you're talking about, it is a good thing," said Zongker.

Zongker was accepted in NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program to receive cost-share assistance on practices including a watering system and interior fences and incentive payments to do rotational grazing. He attributes his one-on-one discussions in the field in developing his grazing plan to fit his operation.

Another tool the service is using is the electronic Field Office Technical Guide. The old guide was a paper book used in field offices as the primary scientific reference containing technical information about conservation of soil, water, air, and related plant and animal resources.

"Anyone, landowners and conservation planners, can access this information online," Tecklenburg said. "This is another valuable conservation tool farmers and ranchers have access to in managing their land."

"The more we can do out in the field, the better."

## correction

A stork report in the Friday, April 20, edition of *The Goodland Star-News* said Matthew Pianalto and Hannah Madden-Pianalto of Goodland had a son, Liberty Jon Pianalto. Liberty is a baby girl. This was a reporting error.

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The Goodland Star-News will

correct any mistake or misundersanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

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