

Do You Know?

What should you do if you find an orphaned fawn?

Don't touch! You need to make sure it is really orphaned. Mommy deer often leave their babies hiding in tall grass while they go off to forage. You need to make sure the mommy is not around, so wait to see. If you go back a few hours later and the fawn is still there, then call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator to help. If you can determine right away that the mommy deer is dead, then call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator immediately.

What should you NOT do if you find an orphaned fawn?

Don't touch it or move it until you are sure the mommy isn't coming back for it. Don't try to feed it. You cannot keep or feed a wild fawn legally unless you are a wildlife rehabilitator, so you must call someone who is licensed by the state of NY. Rehabilitators are specially trained to help and know best how to take care of the fawn.

What does a fawn eat? How often do they eat?

Fawns eat mother's milk in the wild. When they lose their mother and a rehabilitator feeds them, they eat every four hours, day and night. They can drink goat milk, but they do better on special fawn formula (powdered milk made especially for deer). The older they get, the more milk they drink (but eventually less often), until they are weaned at 3-4 months old. They nibble on grass and leaves and weeds at this point and drink less and less milk until they are completely weaned over onto vegetation.

How long does it take for a fawn to grow up to be old enough to release?

In the wild, buck fawns stay with their mommy for one year, and doe fawns stay with their mother for at least two years. However, rehabilitators often try to release weaned fawns at about 6 months old. Sometimes they stay a bit longer, or until the rehabilitator determines that they are fully capable of living in the wild.

What happens to the grown deer when they are released?

They live in the wild and forage and meet other deer and, if they are lucky, have babies of their own someday, and contribute to the circle of life.

Is it hard to let the fawns you've raised go out into the forest when they are grown?

Sometimes, but it is best for wild animals to live in the wild, and they are so happy when they can be released and run and play the way they are meant to. So watching them enjoy that makes it easier.

Bonus question:

Why would a mother deer leave her fawn, other than to go get food for herself?

Fawns lack a scent that adults have and that predators can smell; therefore, adult females will often keep some distance until the fawn can walk and run better. If a predator attacks, the mother will run away from her fawn so that the predator chases her, and in that way, she can lead it away from the vulnerable fawn.

Who to contact if you find an orphaned fawn?

In New York, you can call: 1-877-457-5680

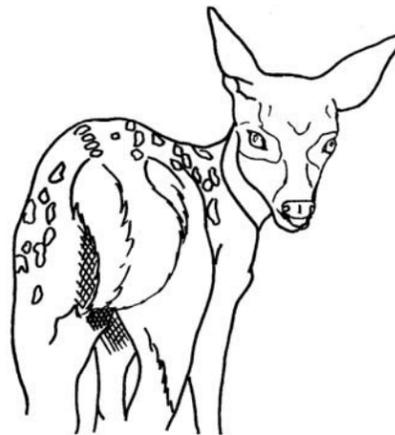
Or go to their website:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/261.html>

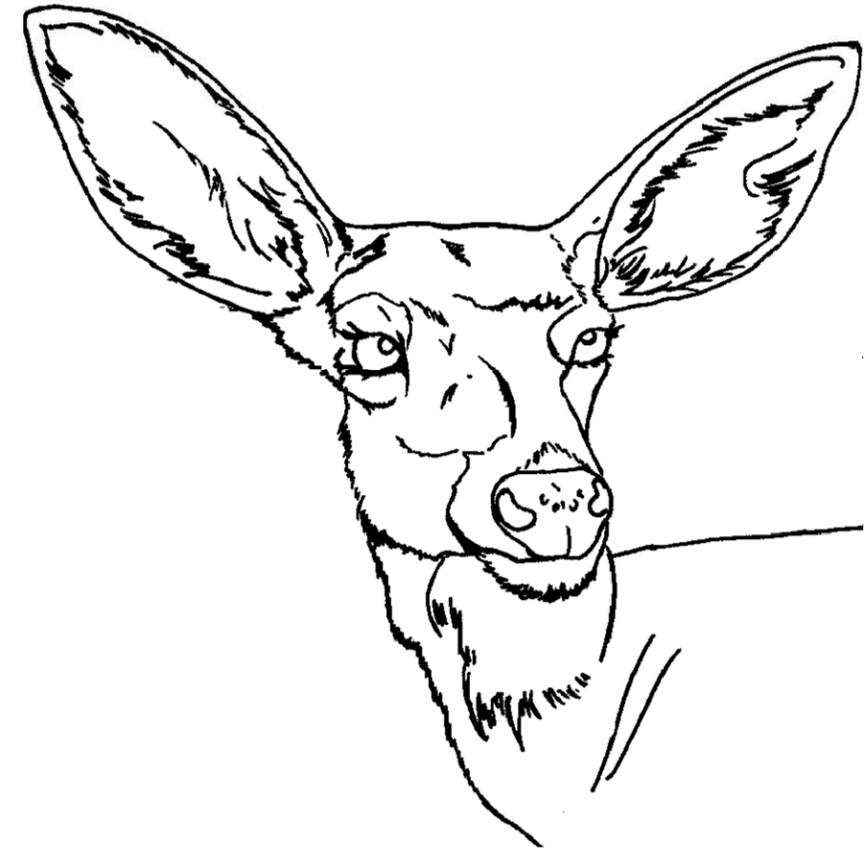
To find your regional DEC office go here:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/558.html>

To find a licensed rehabilitator in your area click on the 'contact a wildlife rehabilitator' link.



Mommy Dearest



The True Story of How
An Orphaned Fawn Became
Foster Mother To Other Orphans

Story of Deirdre and Lily

In the early summer of 2010, Chittenango, New York, wildlife rehabilitator Cindy McGinley received notice of a doe killed by a car. Standing next to her was a fawn only hours old, now orphaned. McGinley brought the severely malnourished fawn to her 12-acre facility. The little one had a questionable survival prognosis and required hand feeding with special deer formula, including medications, gelling electrolytes and pumpkin for chronic diarrhea. In her debilitated state, she needed heat lamps and a tiny Chihuahua jacket for warmth. It took close observation and round-the-clock care for at least 2 months, but she survived. When it was certain that the little fawn would live, she was named Deirdre.

Four years later another extremely damaged orphaned fawn found its way into McGinley's care. Because the fawn was without her mother's milk for too long, her sight was damaged. At first, it was thought that with vitamin therapy she would retain her eyesight. The veterinarian told Cindy that sometimes they did sometimes they didn't. They had to wait and see. Unfortunately, her sight did completely fail, but in every other way she was perfectly healthy. When Deirdre stepped in as the 'Seeing Eye Deer' for the blind fawn, it became apparent that the new addition had a protector and would be ok; but, she would need to stay at Rivendell for the rest of her life. The fawn was given the name, Lily.

Since then, there have been several other animals, some of them other orphaned fawns, who have been rehabilitated and released by Cindy McGinley. They will go on to lead normal lives in the forests of New York. But these two deer are special and their lives will be different from their brethren. Because of their special needs, they have a different life path now.

The average life span of a wild white tail deer is between 4 and 5 years, with the potential to live over 10 years if they avoid danger and mishap. But the reality is that few live beyond 5 years. However, their average life span in captivity is 4 to 14 years.

New York State requires that proper rehabilitative care be conducted in a manner that precludes imprinting of wildlife on humans, but in some cases this is simply not possible. Deirdre was so very young that she imprinted on Cindy the second she saw her. Nonetheless, McGinley was dedicated to rehabilitating her as required by law.

Psychological imprinting is defined as "...a remarkable phenomenon that occurs in animals, and theoretically in humans, in the first hours of life. The newborn creature bonds to the type of animals it meets at birth and begins to pattern its behavior after them. In humans, this is often called bonding, and it usually refers to the relationship between the newborn and its parents." ([medicine.net](http://www.medicinenet.com))

Trained as a teacher, and with a second degree in equine management, McGinley has also worked with adults and children since 1992, some of whom were disadvantaged and/or disabled. She is currently a consultant in the mental health/wellness field. Since 2011, she has worked to establish her facility as an educational site for the benefit of both humans in her practice and the animals in her care. With this dual goal in mind and with the imprinted deer not suitable for normal release she applied for a Special License to Collect or Possess for Education/ Exhibition from the DEC.

McGinley believes that non-releasable wildlife, in licensed sanctuaries, are important for public education, as well as education about the animals themselves for veterinarians and other animal professionals who may come in contact with wildlife during the course of their day. Education about wildlife rehabilitation is also a reflection of our values as a society and can help us learn more about ourselves.

"I have seen first-hand the power animals have on troubled humans. The facility will provide a win-win for humans and animals: a chance for environmental and wildlife education and help for humans who need to learn trust and acceptance through these creatures. Wildlife, adults, and children will all benefit."

Join 'Be Herd's' Big Ear Club Challenge



"Be Herd" is an internet herd created for those fighting for deer rights. It is inspired by Misty, a black tail fawn – a survivor of a car accident – living free and wild now.

Be Herd's Big Ear Challenge is a less frosty version of the Ice Bucket Challenge. Its purpose is to spread awareness of and support for deer and their rehabilitators who are facing struggles. Injured and orphaned deer like Deirdre and Lily, Lisa and Jack need to have someone who will speak for them.

So.... if you would like to participate in the Challenge and become a member of Be Herd's Big Ear Club, all you have to do is take a selfie of you and your friends with your hands on your heads making the "big ears" sign. Then just post that picture on Be Herd's Facebook page.

Below is a membership card for you to cut out and keep with you. On the back are phone numbers and web addresses for who to contact if you find an orphaned or injured deer.

Please help save Deirdre and Lily... and all the deer who need safe permanent homes or who just need a little help until they can return to the wild. Below are links to the **Save Deirdre and Lily campaign** and to **Be Herd's** pages.

The Care2 petition site for Save Deirdre & Lily:
<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/627/277/162/>

The Be Herd Community
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Be-Herd/1610520749223652?fref=ts>

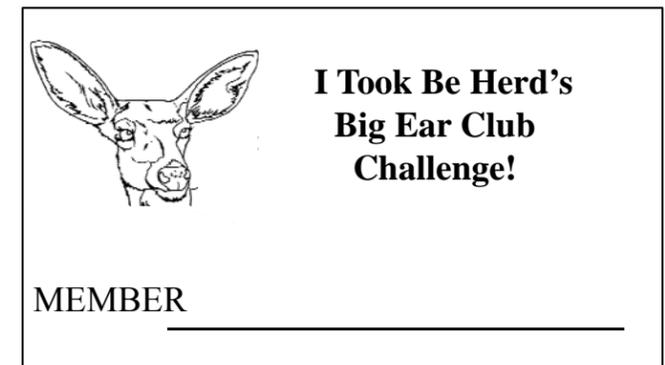
Donation websites:
<https://life.indiegogo.com/fundraisers/1368919/x/2319935>
Also PayPal to blackhorseconsulting@twcny.rr.com

Twitter links:
@SaveDeirdreandLily
@DeerBeHerd

Booster shirt:
<http://www.booster.com/savedeirdreandlily>

CafePress Items:
<http://www.cafepress.com/savedeirdreandlily>
Cindy Leigh McGinley,
CH CHC – Wildlife Rehabilitator: 315.289.2030
<http://www.BlackHorseConsulting.com>

CUT OUT THIS CARD
CARRY IT WITH YOU



The First Big Ear Club! Come on in, the water's fine!



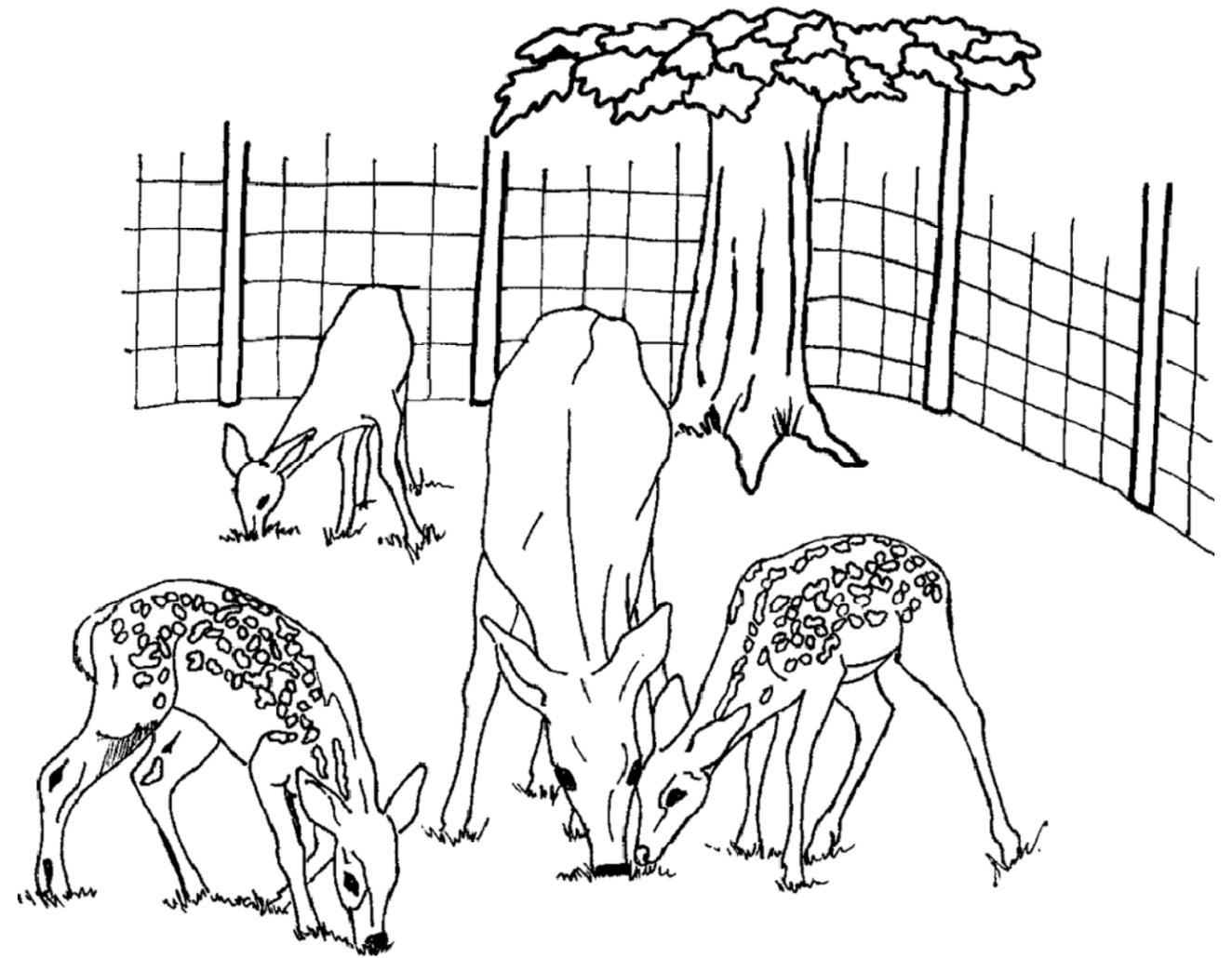
Deidre was so small when she came to Rivendell Farm that Cindy put her in a pink Chihuahua jacket to keep her warm and had to feed her from a bottle every four hours.



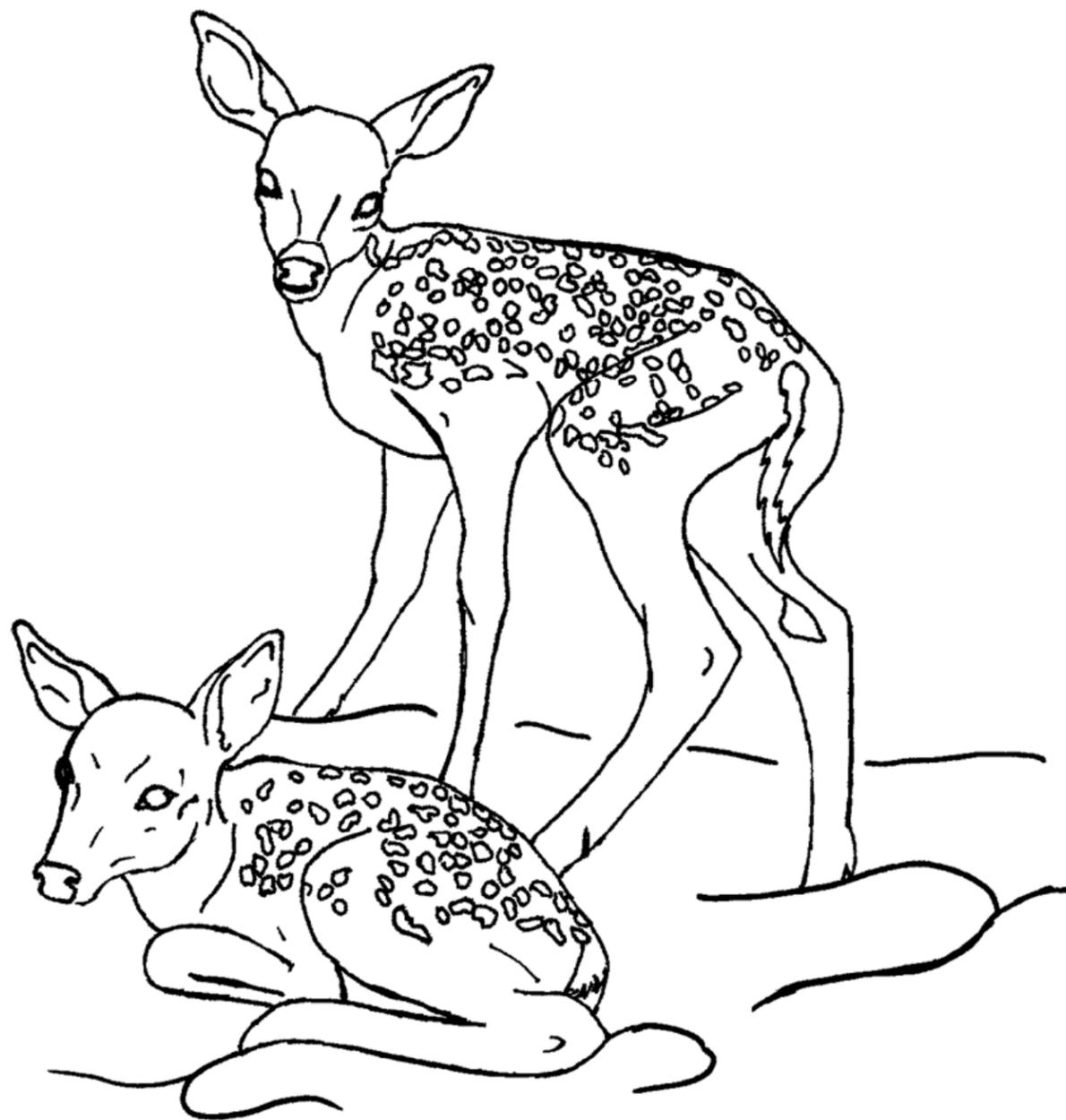
It wasn't long before Deirdre was able to go out and explore the farm on her own. She followed Cindy on her rounds to feed the other animals and made friends with all the other animals on the farm.



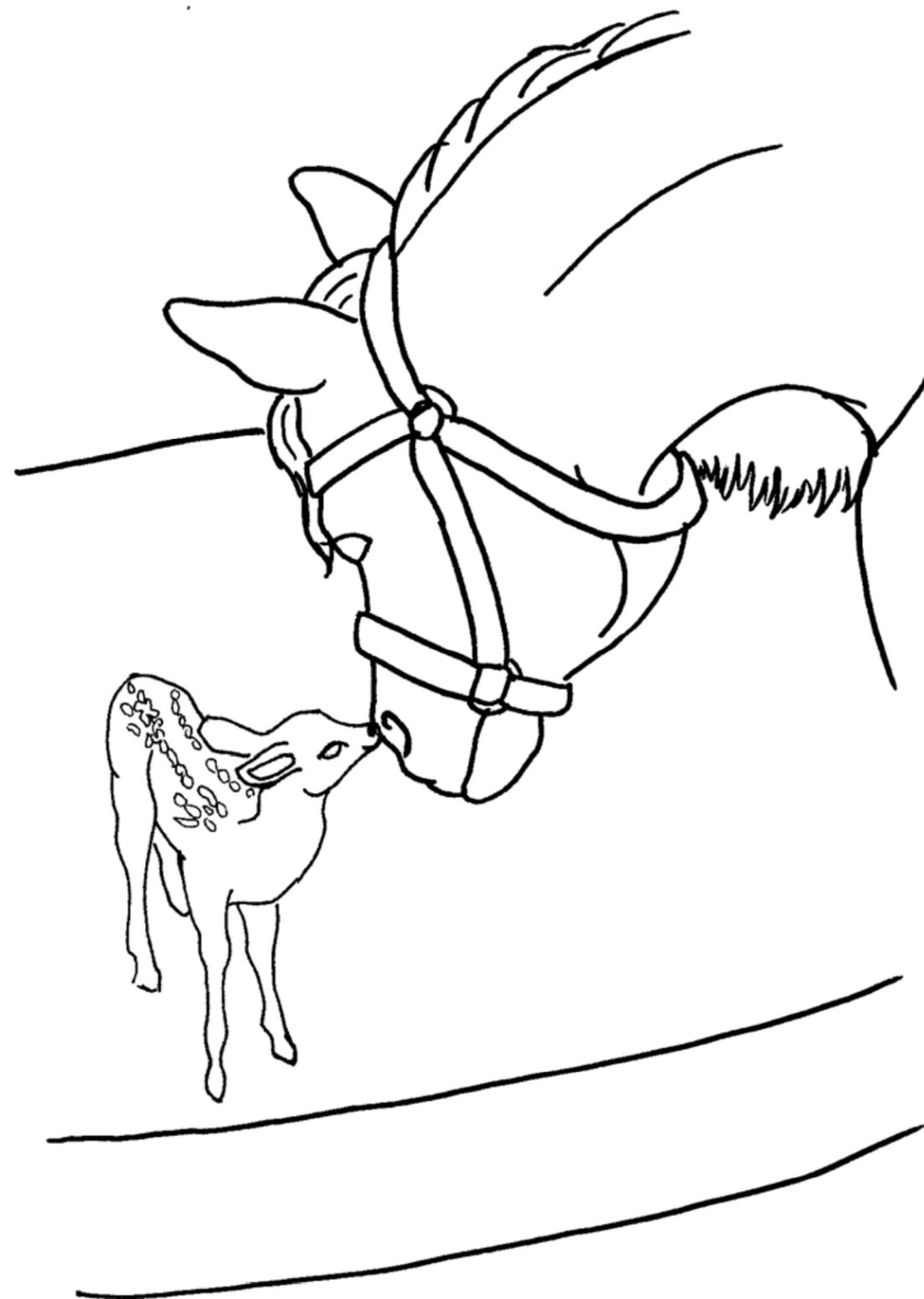
Deirdre steps up and takes charge of the younger deer. Showing them the paddock and watching over them as they play. "Now it's my turn. I'm the Mommy Deer. It's up to me to teach the incoming fawns."



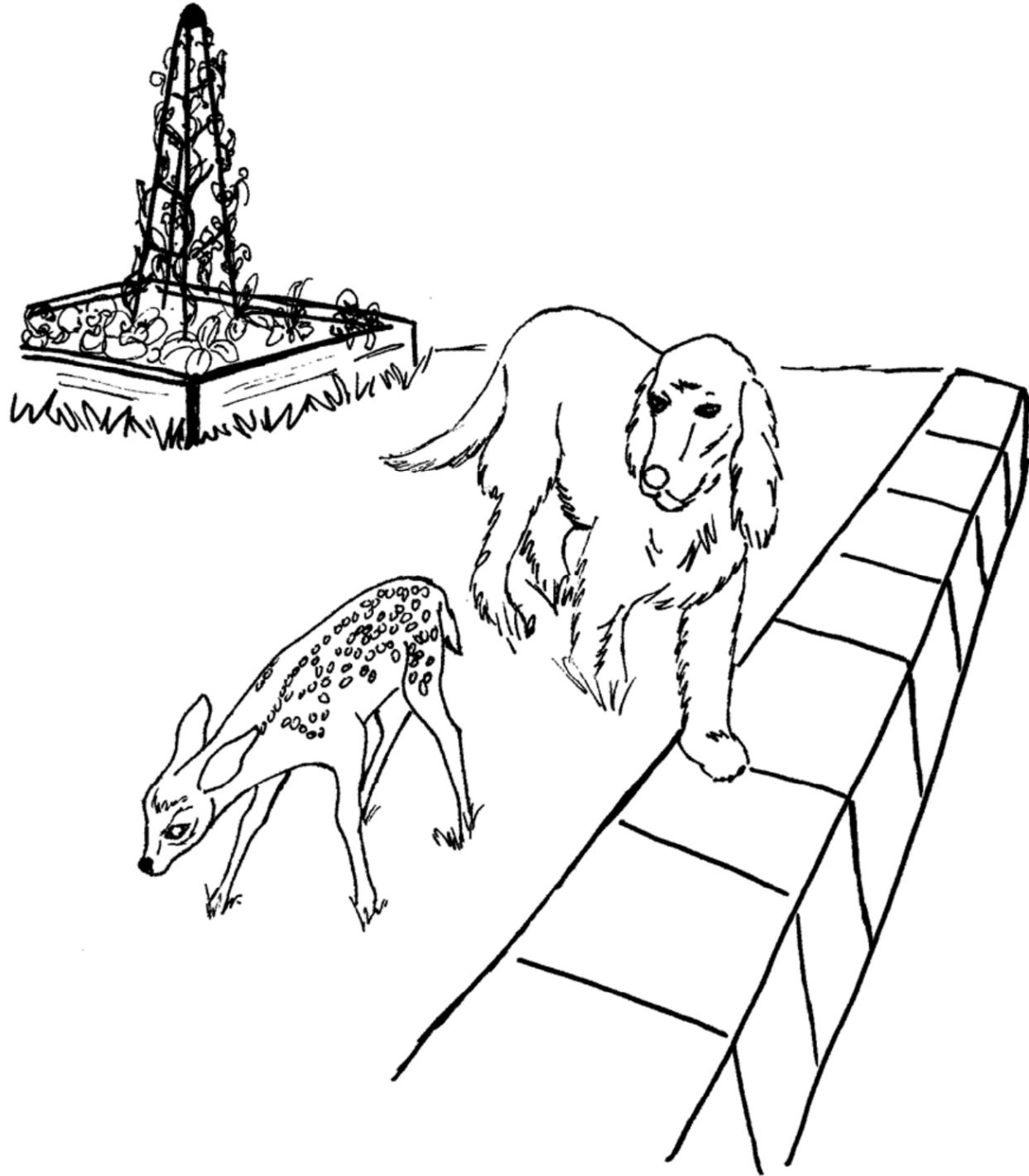
New arrivals Jack and Lisa. They will be raised at Rivendell until they are old enough to be released into the wild.



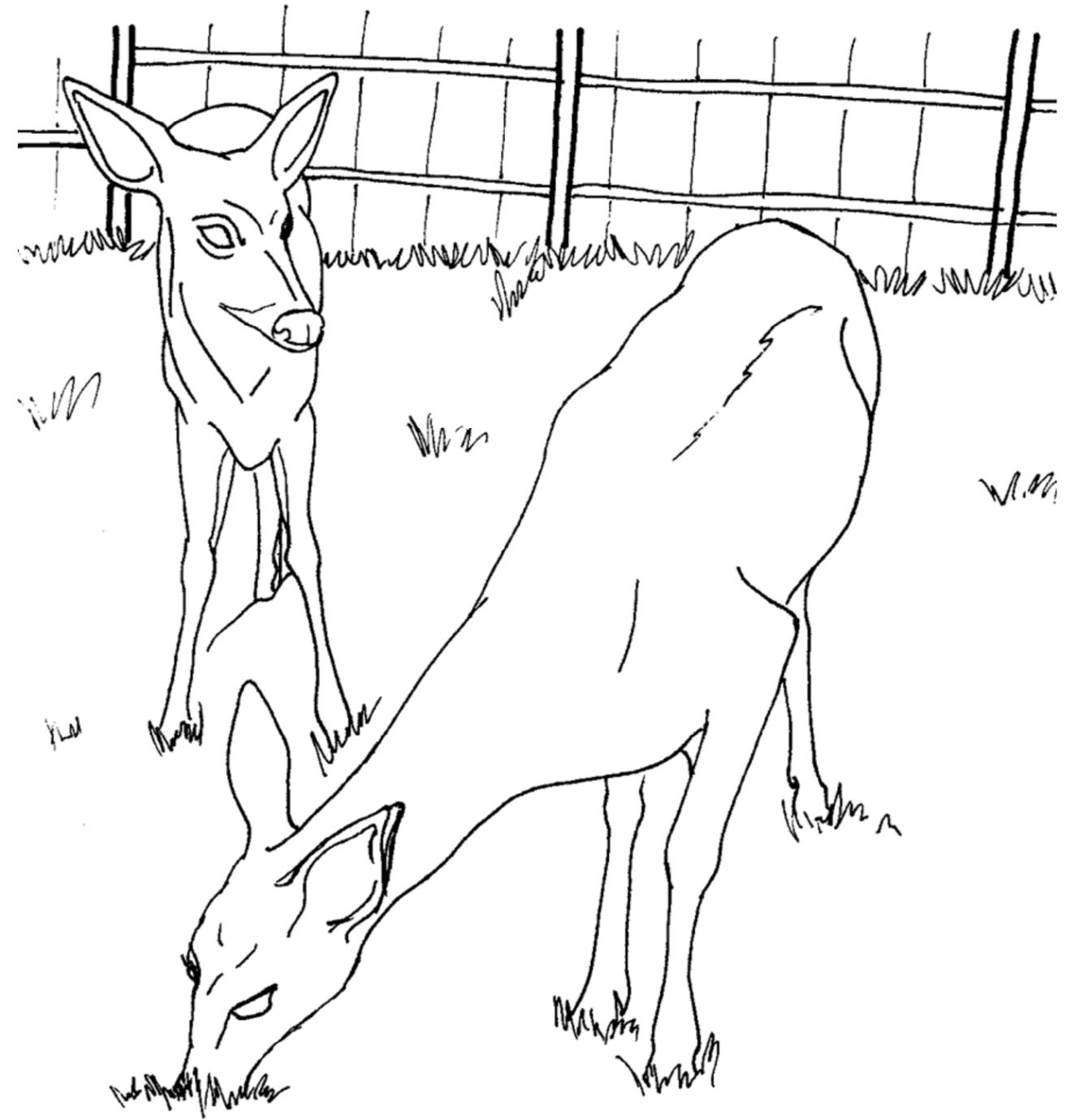
Deirdre met a really big horse named Alf who became her best friend and turnout buddy when she got older.



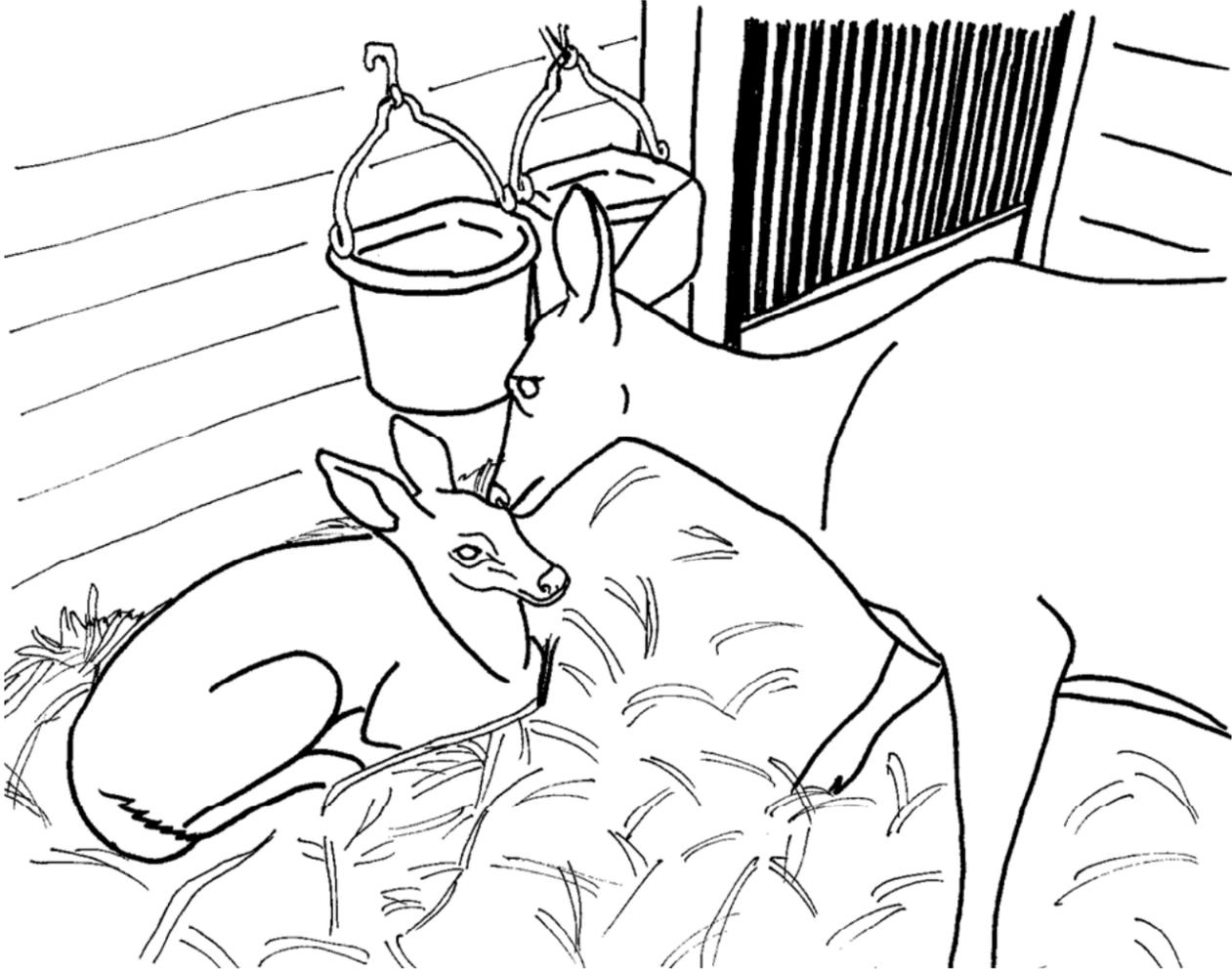
Deirdre with her hairy adopted brother and guardian, Conner, out for a walk about.



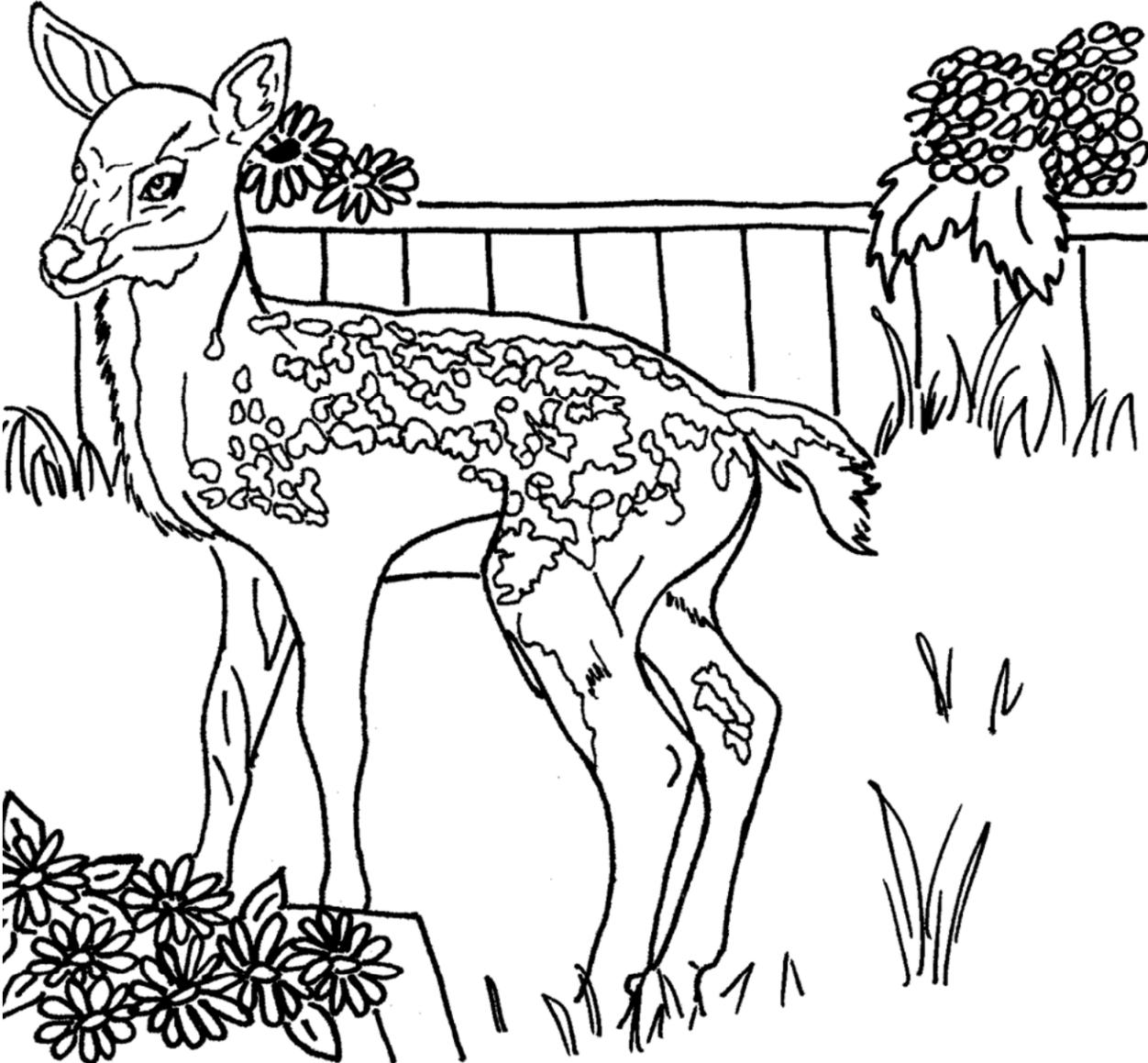
Since Lily was blind, Deirdre became her 'Seeing Eye Deer' and led her around to keep her from bumping into things. Lily now knows where everything is and can navigate Rivendell Farm on her own, but still finds and follows her adopted Mommy, Deirdre, by smell and sound.



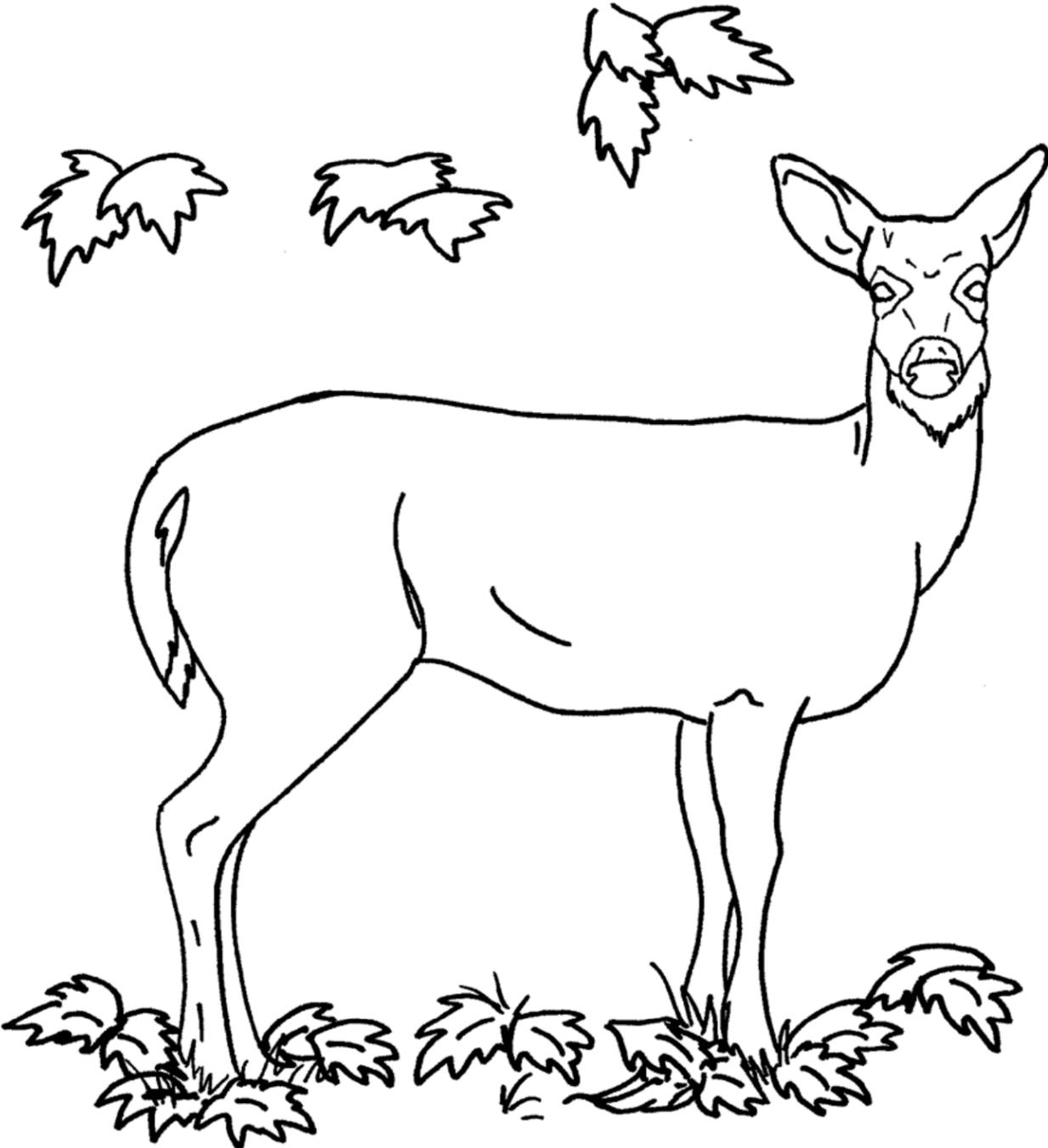
The first night Lily got out of quarantine, Deirdre realized the young doe needed a special friend so she licked her clean the way any good mother deer would do.



Feeling very safe in her new home, Deirdre explores the garden on her own.



Deirdre was considered a fully grown young doe when she turned two years old.



Cindy tells Deirdre that now that she's grown she needs help raise the new fawns who will be coming to the farm for care. They will imprint on her and she can help them be ready to transition back into the wild.

