



## HUMAN-DEER CONFLICTS

- Deer account for approximately 4,000 calls to the Conservation Officer Service reporting line every year.
- Deer feed on a wide variety of plants: evergreen shrubs, rose bushes, flowers, budding fruit trees, etc.
- Attacks by deer on humans are rare but do occur and, despite their appearance, deer can inflict serious injuries.
- Pets have been attacked and killed by deer.

Usually these attacks are a defensive response to a small dog or cat approaching the deer's young.

- If you see a deer acting aggressively or causing property damage, call the Conservation Officer reporting line at 1.877.952.7277.



British Columbia Conservation Foundation



The BC Conservation Foundation is a not-for-profit, registered charity that has been working in BC since 1969. To learn more about our organization please visit us at

[www.bccf.com](http://www.bccf.com)

WildSafeBC is funded through partnerships throughout BC.

Core funding is made possible through the

BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

To report wildlife in conflict contact the Conservation Officer Service:

**1.877.952.7277**



Ministry of  
Environment and  
Climate Change Strategy

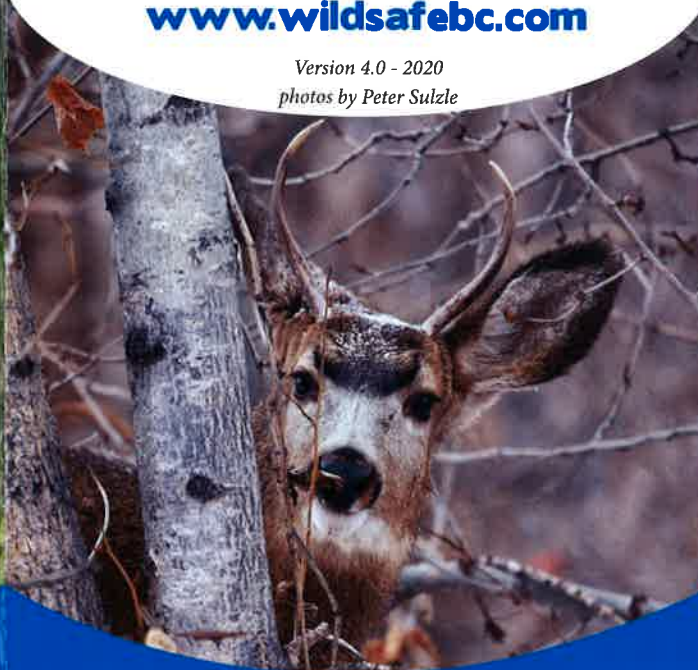
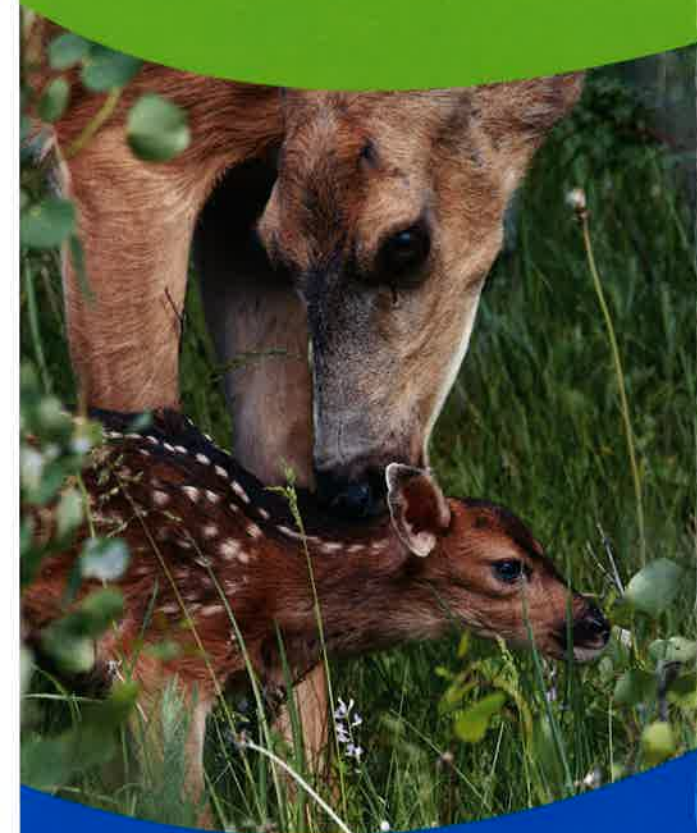
[www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com)

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photos by Peter Sulzle

## DEER



British Columbia Conservation Foundation





## MANAGE YOUR ATTRACTANTS

Deer are especially hard to remove from a neighbourhood once they have established themselves, so it is important to ensure that the deer do not become comfortable in your yard.

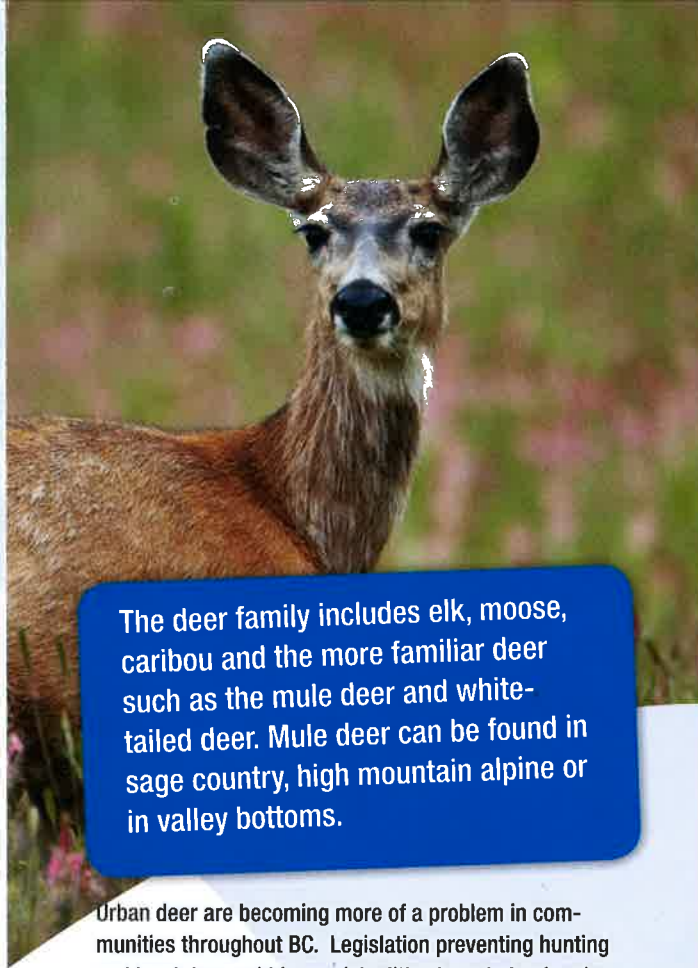
1. **Do not feed deer**, you are not helping them out in the long run. Deer have plenty of natural foods in the wild and keeping them there will prevent the need to deal with a deer 'problem' in your neighbourhood at some later date.
2. **Take away the welcome mat**. Make your yard unattractive to deer by trimming back any cover that they might use while travelling or bedding.
3. **Motion activated lights and sprinklers**, if used randomly, help to dissuade deer from using your yard.
4. **Orchards or crops**, should be fenced to exclude deer and other wildlife. Usually this requires both a high and an electrified fence. Visit our website for more information on fence building.
5. **Chase deer from your property** whenever they appear and they will learn that your property is not worth the effort. But remember that it is illegal for you or your dog to injure a deer.

## ! DEER SAFETY TIPS

Deer are normally timid animals but if they become habituated to humans they can become a danger.

- Never approach a deer, especially if it has young with it.
- If a deer does attack you - try to stay upright as they inflict injury by striking at their opponent with their sharp hooves. Cover your head with your arms and back off to some form of shelter.
- Deer may signal an impending attack by laying their ears back and lowering their head.

Call the Conservation Officer Service reporting line (1-877-952-7277) to report any deer acting aggressively.



The deer family includes elk, moose, caribou and the more familiar deer such as the mule deer and white-tailed deer. Mule deer can be found in sage country, high mountain alpine or in valley bottoms.

Urban deer are becoming more of a problem in communities throughout BC. Legislation preventing hunting and leash laws within municipalities have helped make **urban areas more attractive to deer**. Highly adaptable, the deer have learned how to survive and thrive in urban environments.

Deer are herd animals for the winter months and become more solitary when they have and raise their young (mid May through til October). Breeding season, known as **the rut, is in November** and bucks may become more unpredictable as they compete for the right to breed.

Deer are herbivores and have many natural predators and as such have developed **keen senses** to ensure their survival. A deer's hearing is acute and their ability to articulate their ears allows them to pinpoint the sounds of any approaching predator.

More information on deer can be found on our website under our **species accounts pages**.



## WHERE'RE THE DEER?

Visit our website at [www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com) to find a map that shows where deer have been sighted in your community along with information about what has attracted them into the area. By knowing where the deer are and what is bringing them in, we can all do our part to keep wildlife wild and our communities safe.

[www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com)



## DEER FACTS:

- There are three deer native to BC: mule deer, white-tailed deer and the coastal black-tailed deer.
- Mule deer and black-tailed deer are members of the same species and are known to interbreed where their ranges overlap.
- Mule deer are the more numerous of the deer species in BC and are found in most habitats.
- Deer are both browsers (eating shrubs and woody plants) and grazers (eating grasses).
- Male deer, called bucks, grow antlers that are shed every year - usually by late December but some may retain theirs much later.
- Bucks use their antlers for both display and fighting in order to assert dominance and to secure breeding privileges with the does.
- Female deer, called does, usually give birth to one or two fawns.
- Fawns are spotted when new-born to help camouflage them while they are left unattended by the doe as she goes off to feed.



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