

seen deer before. Be careful when going around curves or when approaching favored deer crossings. If you see a deer cross safely in front of your car, slow down and expect more to come. Don't assume that a deer that is in the road will run off as you approach.

In the event of an accident, any motorist or passenger who is involved in the accident should provide assistance to anyone who is injured. Do not attempt to remove a dead or injured deer from a busy roadway. Instead, contact local, county or state law enforcement officials.

If you, or another party, intend to possess a deer killed by a vehicle, law enforcement must investigate the crash and/or deer before a person can pick up the deer struck by a vehicle. With an exception to shed antlers, no deer parts can legally be held without a valid tag, seal or certificate.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN

Due to their overall size, as well as lethal feet and antlers, deer can inflict physical harm to any individual when approached. In general, Ohio continues to possess a healthy deer population due to proactive measures set in place by the Ohio Division of Natural Resources (ODNR). While Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been reported in all surrounding states, ODNR continues to actively test for CWD with no signs of it having surfaced in Ohio.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you find a wild animal and are concerned, leave it alone and call Brukner Nature Center at 937-698-6493, seven days a week, 24 hours a day.



5995 Horseshoe Bend Rd.

Troy, OH 45373

www.bruknernaturecenter.com

Brukner Nature Center is a non-profit, privately funded organization promoting the appreciation and understanding of wildlife conservation through preservation, education, and rehabilitation.

The purpose of our wildlife rehabilitation program is to educate people regarding the natural history of Ohio's wildlife, to offer help and advice when wildlife and people conflict, and to care for, rehabilitate, and release native Ohio wildlife expected to survive in their natural environment.

Living with **WHITE- TAILED DEER**

in Miami County



Brukner Nature Center

In 2009, the Ohio Division of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, estimated that over 700,000 white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) were living in Ohio. While their preferred habitat consists of woods, farmlands, brushy areas and dense thickets, it is no wonder with populations so high that deer are now found residing in urban areas.



Deer are the largest herbivore in Ohio with peak levels of activity during dawn and dusk.

FAWNS

Young wild animals are not like human babies. Their mothers do not constantly watch them, and they spend large amounts of time alone.

If you see a fawn, leave it alone! Fawns may be left unattended for up to 24 hours. The mother is usually within a short distance. If a fawn has been moved from an area, return it immediately. The fawn's best chance of survival is with its own species. In addition, deer are protected by state law, and it is unlawful to care for a fawn.

Identifying the deer is usually not the problem most people face; it's protecting yards and gardens from this unmistakable friend. However, there are some humane solutions to unwanted deer situations.

FENCING

Enclosing your yard with a 6 to 8 foot fence is one way to almost guarantee deer exclusion. However, if there is plenty of food available, deer have been known to jump a 4-foot, and even a 6-foot, fence. But deer will only jump the fence if they are sure of a clear landing. Fencing individual plants is another way of protecting your plants and trees. Try stringing light bird netting around plants and chicken wire around young trees.

PLANTINGS

There are some plants and flowers that deer do not prefer. However, keep in mind that in nature, nothing is guaranteed. Each situation is different depending upon individual animals and food availability. For the most part, deer tend to dislike plants that are smelly, spicy, fuzzy or prickly.

Contact your local nursery for additional plant suggestions.

REPELLENTS

Taste deterrents can be applied to plants to change the taste. Mix one tablespoon of Tabasco sauce with one gallon of water, and spray onto plants. Many commercial products are available at local nurseries or home centers as well. Taste deterrents need to be reapplied after a rain or heavy dew, and should be used for 10 days or until the deer stop eating the plants.

Bar soap, even unscented ones work as well. Leaving the wrapper on; drill holes through the soap bar. Hang the bars no more than

three feet apart from each other. Leave them up for a week; this is usually enough time to deter the deer.

Suspending human hair in a pair of nylons also works well. Leaving hair suspended for a week is usually enough time to deter deer.

Scarecrows, bright lights, loud music, motion detectors, and hanging tinfoil or pie tins may work for a few days, but once the deer become familiar with them, the items lose their effectiveness.

DEER AND VEHICLES

Please keep in mind that there are two times a year when deer auto collisions increase dramatically: October through December, when deer are in rut, and May through June, when young from the previous year are out on their own and when does are with fawns and thus slower and less agile. Reduce your speed, and watch for deer on the edge of the road, especially at dawn and dusk. Make a note of where you have

