



- It is illegal to feed wild deer in Illinois due to concerns regarding Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).
- Illegally raising deer fawns greatly reduces their chances of survival.



**Habitat:**  
Near wooded areas,  
especially along streams.



- Buck (adult male):**
- Weigh 150-250 lbs.
  - Grow antlers in the spring; antlers shed in early December.
- Doe (adult female):**
- Weigh 100-150 lbs.
- Fawns (young deer):**
- Weigh 4-8 lbs. at birth
  - Reddish coat with white spots.
  - Camouflage meant to look like spots of sunlight on the forest floor.

- Reproduction:**
- **Mating Season:**  
October through January  
*Peak season:*  
mid-November
  - **Gestation (pregnancy):**  
7 months
  - **Litters:** 1-3 fawns/year
    - **Fawns born:**  
April → July  
*Most commonly from:*  
late May → mid-June
    - **Weaning:**  
when fawns are ~4 months old



- Behavior:**
- Active at dusk and dawn
  - Deer leave their beds to forage for food at dusk & dawn.
  - During the night, they mainly rest.
  - **Winter:** may require foraging during the day in order to find enough food.
    - Can jump 8 feet high, or 30 feet in length.

**Interaction between Fawn & Doe:**

- They locate each other through sound and smell.
- A doe stands away from its fawn, so as not to attract predators to their young.
  - > Remember, the doe is nearby (even if you can't see her).
  - > The fawn is neither abandoned nor helpless.
- A doe will leave its baby alone for several hours at a time.
  - > They will return twice a day to nurse.
- As a fawn grows older & stronger, it will follow the doe to forage.

**Fawns:**



**When to Intervene:**

- When a fawn is clearly injured.
- If you see a dead adult doe near the fawn.
  - Leave the fawn untouched & undisturbed for 24 hours.
    - > If after 24 hours the fawn hasn't moved, and looks weaker, call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

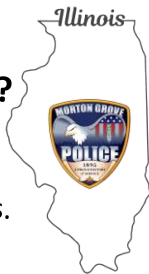


**To Rescue -or- Not To Rescue?**

- Many "rescued" fawns that well-meaning people incorrectly believed were orphaned, were not actually abandoned.
  - > The fawn was being fed & cared for by the doe.
- While the doe is out foraging, the fawn waits for her to return in areas of cover, by lying motionless:
  - > The doe will stay away from the nesting area if people are present.
- If you find a fawn by itself, do not move it—leave it where you found it.



**Did You Know?**  
The white-tailed deer is the state mammal of Illinois.



**Oh, Deer...**