



TIPS for COEXISTING WITH DEER

If you live among deer— that is if you live in San Antonio, the Hill Country, Austin, and any part throughout Central or South Texas— daily life requires respect and awareness towards deer and various native wildlife that were here long before us.

Below are a few tips that will help you coexist with deer in your area and most importantly what to look for when you think a fawn or deer is in need of rescue or medical care.

Signs a fawn is in trouble

Pacing, calling out or appears distressed: A fawn who is still being cared for by his mother will usually be calm and lying down. If the fawn is spooked he may get up and move but will lie back down a short distance away.

Lying on his/her side: Deer are ruminants and when healthy will lie in the sternal position. You will not find a healthy deer or fawn lying on his/her side.

Covered in ants: If the fawn is lying on the ground and covered in ants, he is in trouble. A healthy fawn will move if ants begin to attack. Call the WRR Emergency Hotline; (830) 336-2725 for assistance.

Don't feed deer

Deer corn is one of the worst foods for deer. Their bodies are not made to digest corn. Eating it causes deer to develop diarrhea, seek corn instead of nutritious natural food, and contract diseases as a result of malnutrition. If you have a sick local deer, feed her protein pellets rather than corn, bread, or other sugary food. When the deer recovers, stop supplementing her food.

Feeding deer also habituates them, increasing their chances of being hurt or killed in a human/wildlife conflict.



FAWN FACTS *DID YOU KNOW?*

- A doe will leave her fawns for up to 14 hours at a time. She will hide the fawn in places she deems safe which may be under a car, or a more natural area such as tall grass, etc.
- Fawns do not emit the same odor as adult deer so they are safe from predators when the mother is not around.
- After an early-morning feeding the mother deer will leave for the day to find her own food, returning at dusk to feed and spend the night with her fawn.
- If you see a fawn on the side of the road or in another dangerous place, you can move the fawn to a safe location nearby.

Remember: If you find a fawn in your yard, the odds are he or she is probably healthy. You should not pick up a fawn for many reasons, one is because it is illegal. If you think an animal injured or in danger, call WRR's 24-HR Hotline at (830) 336-2725 for assistance.

Landscaping with deer

As more and more of the Hill Country and outlying areas of San Antonio are developed, more and more of the land must be shared between humans and native wildlife. That means that at some point, deer will sample your flowers and shrubs until finding the tastiest shoots in your garden. While there is no foolproof solution to this situation, you can minimize the damage to your garden by choosing deer-resistant selections from an array of beautiful native plants. A good resource for selecting deer-resistant native plants is the [Lady Bird Wildlife Center](#) in Austin, Texas.

Injured adult deer

Unfortunately, injured adult deer are common in urban or developed areas. Often, the best assistance we can give injured deer is to leave them alone. Deer are extremely high-stress animals, and almost always if a deer is captured and transported to Wildlife Rescue, the animal dies from the stress of capture if he or she doesn't succumb to the original injury. Deer can also survive and move about quite well on three legs. If you find an deer who has been hit by a vehicle and the deer cannot stand, the deer will probably have to be euthanized. If the deer has a non-survivable injury, call the Sheriff Department's non-emergency number: **210-335-6000**.

To reduce the likelihood of collisions

Be vigilant: When you drive, make a habit of watching from side to side, especially in areas of low visibility or where shrubs or grasses are close to the road.

Watch for group behavior: Deer tend to travel in groups. If one deer crosses the road, watch for more to follow. Female deer tend to stay together as "doe groups" in winter and have young fawns following them in the Spring.

Be aware of seasons: In the Fall, bucks are on the move due to rutting and hunting seasons. In Spring (May-June), yearlings are seeking new territories. Be extra careful driving at these times of year.

Time of day matters: Deer are most active at dusk and dawn. Be watchful, especially during early morning and evening, when wildlife may be moving across roads.

Use high beams: At night, use your high beams to see farther ahead. Slow down and watch for the eye-shine of deer near the road edges.

Drive straight and honk your horn: If at all possible, do not swerve to avoid wildlife but brake firmly and blow your horn. Animals are easily confused. If you swerve, deer may run into the vehicle rather than away from it. And swerving could mean driving into another vehicle or off the road into poles or fences.

For more helpful information please visit [WildlifeHotline.org](#) or [Wildlife-Rescue.org](#)



Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation's mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and release native wildlife and to provide sanctuary, individualized care, and a voice for other animals in need.

Established in 1977, WRR receives no government or city funds and relies solely on contributions from individuals and foundations. To make a gift, visit [Wildlife-Rescue.org](#).

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