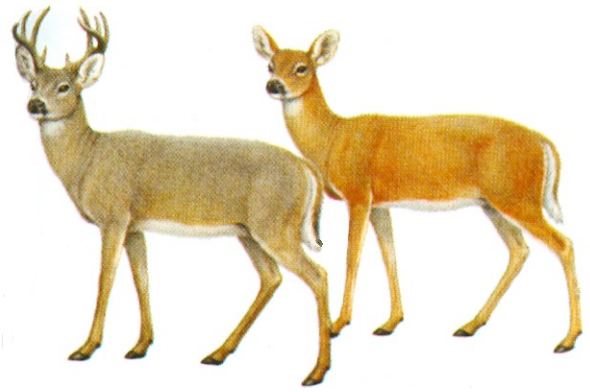


White-Tailed Deer

Odocoileus virginianus



Key Features

- Tan or brown in the summer and grayish brown in winter
- White markings on throat, face, stomach and underside of tail
- Males have antlers and weigh between 150 and 300 pounds; females, between 90 and 200 pounds.

Habitat

- Lives in wooded areas in southern Canada and most of the continental U.S.
- In some areas, deer overpopulation is a problem. Gray wolves and mountain lions once helped keep numbers in check.

Diet

- Herbivorous, eating only plant material
- Eats green plants in the spring and summer, acorns and nuts in fall and buds and twigs of woody plants in winter
- Follows well-used trails to feeding areas in the morning or late afternoon
- Deer at The Grove sometimes feed on fallen bird seed near feeders.

Young

- Mating, or rutting, occurs in winter.
- One to three fawns are born about six months after mating. Fawns are reddish-brown at birth with white spots that help camouflage them.
- Fawns can walk at birth and forage for food a couple of days later. They are weaned at about six weeks.

Interesting Facts

- The white-tailed deer is the state mammal of Illinois.
- When alarmed, deer may stomp its hooves and snort to warn other deer. It may also "flag" or raise its tail and show its white underside. When a mother deer is running, this white underside also helps her fawns follow her.
- Deer can run at speeds of up to 30 miles per hour and are also good leapers and swimmers.
- The mother leaves her fawns well-hidden for hours at a time while she feeds. People often mistakenly think these lone fawns have been abandoned.
- Males shed their antlers each winter and grow a new set in the spring.