

# White-tailed Deer

**AKA:** Virginia Deer, Virginia Whitetail or simply Whitetails

**Scientific Classification:** Animalia, Chordata, Mammalia, Artiodactyla, Cervidae, Capreolinae, *Odocoileus*, *O. virginianus*.

**Size & Markings:** A buck (male) whitetail from northern climates can weigh up to 350 pounds and stand 47" at the shoulder. The does (female) are smaller. A white-tail's coat is reddish-brown during warm months and turns grey-brown during colder months. Whitetails are recognized by the characteristic white underside of their tails. They flash the underside of the tail as an alarm signal when nervous or frightened.

**Habitat:** In North America the whitetail can be found in southern Canada and most of the United States, except for the Southwest, Alaska and Hawaii. While they prefer natural settings, over population and loss of natural habitat often forces whitetails into urban settings like golf courses, cemeteries, public parks, backyards, riverfronts, sod farms, corn and soybean fields, etc.

**Life Cycle:** Whitetails raise an average of 2 fawns each year. Fawns can walk at birth and forage for food a couple of days later. They are weaned at about six weeks of age. Female fawns may stay with their mother for up to two years where male fawns usually leave after one year. In the wild, a whitetail's average lifespan is between 4 and 7 years. In captivity, whitetails can live up to 14 years.

**Food:** Whitetail deer are herbivores and will eat soybeans, plant shoots, leaves, cactus pads, grasses, hay, clover, acorns, fruit and grains. Their special stomach allows them to digest such things as toxic mushrooms and poison ivy plants. Their diet varies by season according to availability of food sources.

**Impact on Human Health:** Every year in the US there is an average of 1.2 million deer-to-vehicle collisions that kill 200 people, injure 26,000 and cost 4 billion dollars in vehicle damages. This is the PRIMARY impact deer have on people. Whitetails can carry diseases that can be transmitted to both humans and other animals. These include; Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD), Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), Lyme disease, Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB), and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

**Impact on Property:** Hungry whitetail deer can eat just about any plant. They can damage or destroy landscaping, flower and vegetable gardens, lawns, plant nurseries, tree seedlings, berry patches, strawberry fields, orchards and vineyards.

## Whitetail Deer Control Methods:

**Access Barriers:** *Deer Blocker Deer Fencing, PlotSaver Deer Barrier, Garden Protector Electric Fence Kit, K-NET HT Netting*

**Additional Products:** *Deer Stopper Organic Repellent, Deer Off Repellent, Ropel Animal Repellent, Scarecrow Motion Activated Water Jet, Air-Crow Inflatable Scarecrow.*

**NOTE: It is your responsibility to check local, state and federal regulations regarding the control of bird and/or animal species.**

Simply purchasing the best control does not guarantee success. Best results come from a thorough knowledge of both the species and the product or method you employ. If you have any questions, please contact Nixalite of America Inc and speak with a wildlife control product specialist.



*Whitetail deer are the most commonly reported nuisance of the deer family. Other members include blacktail and mule deer, elk and moose.*



*Increasing populations coupled with decreasing wild habitat mean more human/deer conflicts. Effects of culling programs and extended hunting seasons have been hotly debated.*



*The biggest impact is the deer-to-vehicle collisions. In an average year, there are 1.2 million collisions that kill 200 people and cost 4 billion.*

*Note: factual content from Wikipedia, US Center for Disease Control, US Insurance Journal, National Geographic and others.*



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