

# DEER OPEN SEASON DATES

The table below gives the open season dates for each UK deer species by sex and location as the law differs in Scotland to the rest of the UK.

The law as it relates to deer may be subject to change and all information provided is for guidance only.

**\*PLEASE NOTE:** The Scottish Parliament voted on Government proposals to abolish the season for male deer in Scotland. Despite having been rejected by the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee, the Parliament voted to accept the Government proposal. This means that, effective from 21st October 2023, there is no close season for male deer of any species in Scotland.

SPECIES	SEX	OPEN SEASON ENGLAND, WALES & N IRELAND	OPEN SEASON SCOTLAND*
<b>RED, SIKA, AND THEIR HYBRIDS</b>	Male	1 August – 30 April	No Close Season
	Female	1 November – 31 March	21 October – 15 February
<b>FALLOW</b>	Male	1 August – 30 April	No Close Season
	Female	1 November – 31 March	21 October – 15 February
<b>ROE</b>	Male	1 April – 31 October	No Close Season
	Female	1 November – 31 March	21 October – 31 March
<b>WATER DEER</b>	Male & Female	1 November – 31 March	No applicable legislation
<b>MUNTJAC</b>	Male & Female	No Close Season	No applicable legislation

## NOTES:

- Seasons for red and sika include hybrids of both species.
- Because it can be difficult to readily differentiate between male and female water deer in the field, the open and closed seasons for them are the same.
- Muntjac, on account of having no fixed times of year for breeding, cannot be afforded the deliberate protection of a closed season. The BDS recommends, however, that when culling female muntjac only immature or heavily pregnant does are selected to avoid leaving dependent young.
- Roe and water deer are not present in Northern Ireland.
- Water deer and muntjac are not recognised as being present in Scotland under the terms of the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996.

## TIME OF DAY

Deer may normally only be shot between one hour before sunrise and an hour after sunset wherever you may be in the United Kingdom.

Night shooting requires a licence from one of the national statutory bodies. Good reason will need to be proven before the grant of one will be considered: this will usually relate to public health, public safety, conserving the natural heritage or preventing serious damage to property.

