

Support British deer with BDS

The British Deer Society (BDS) invites you to join our mission, guided by our commitment to ethics/welfare, science/research, and education/training. Together, we strive to ensure the well-being and fair treatment of British deer.

Who we are:

As a community of deer enthusiasts, the BDS is united in our mission to safeguard the welfare of deer, influencing policies and practices with decades of expertise and modern advancements in science and technology.

What we do:

Through research, education, and advocacy, we address critical issues like deer welfare, environmental impact, and sustainable deer management.

Why support us:

Support the BDS to ensure a UK where deer thrive in harmony with their environment. Your contribution will fund research that improves our understanding of deer in a changing world, provide education so more people can appreciate these amazing creatures, and support welfare initiatives to keep them thriving.

How to support us:

- **Membership:** Join our community and add your voice, speaking up for deer and staying informed with our quarterly magazine as well as regular news and updates from the Society, and connecting with fellow deer enthusiasts in your area.
- **Donations:** Every donation gift makes a significant impact on our efforts to speak up for deer.
- **Spread the word:** Follow us on social media @BritishDeerSociety and be an advocate for deer welfare and responsible deer management.

Join the BDS in preserving British deer and their habitats. Embrace our commitment – where passion meets purpose, and wildlife flourishes.



Photo: Sue Westlake Emy

Discover Britain's diverse deer

Six deer species freely roam the British countryside, thriving in diverse habitats. Native and introduced, these adaptable creatures contribute significantly to Britain's biodiversity, embodying the essence of our captivating natural heritage.



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Visit www.bds.org.uk or scan the code to learn more about Reeves' Muntjac.

WILD DEER OF THE UK Identifying REEVES' MUNTJAC *Muntiacus reevesi*

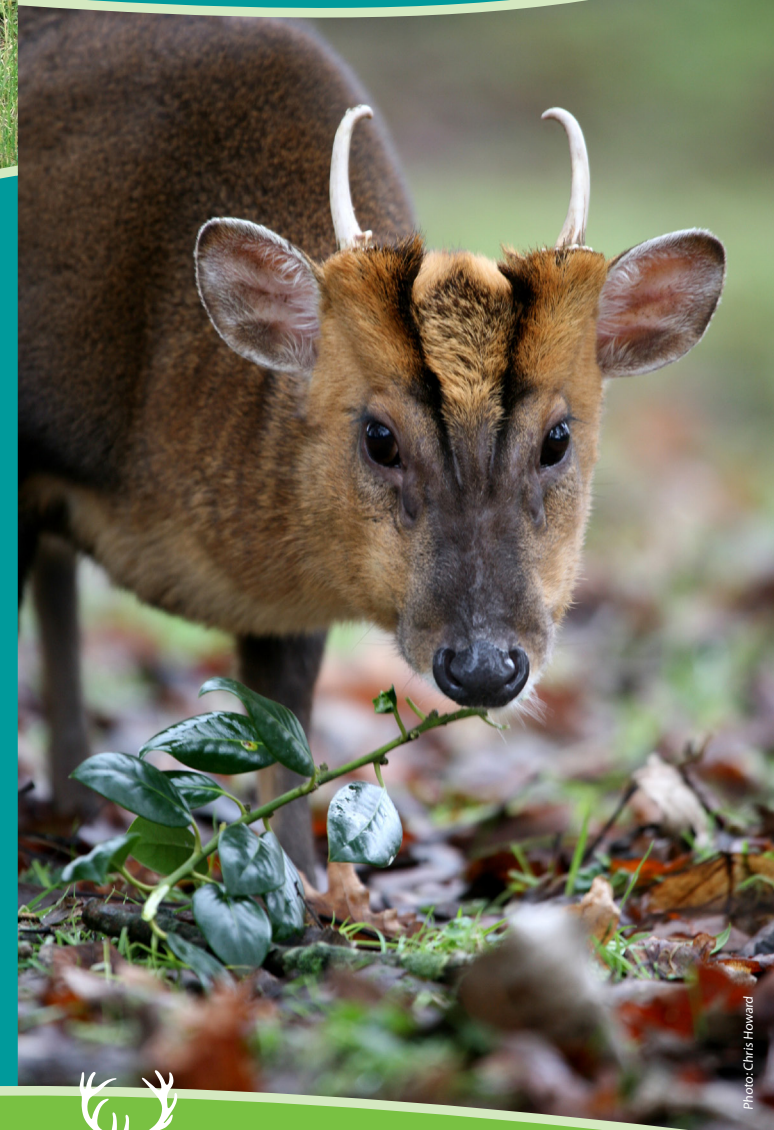


Photo: Chris Howard



the british deer society Together for Deer

www.bds.org.uk

What to look for

Size

Muntjac are a small but stocky species of deer that stand up around 0.50m tall at the shoulder. When fully grown males (bucks) weigh up to 20kg as adults and females (does) weigh up to 16kg.

Coat

Muntjac are a glossy chestnut brown colour for most of the year, turning darker and greyer in winter. They have a lighter throat and white underparts.

Rear

Characteristically, muntjac have a 'hunched' appearance as their rumps are higher than their shoulders. They have a relatively wide tail, ginger on top, which is raised erect to display a white underside when disturbed.

Head

Muntjac males have small, simple antlers on top of a long fur-covered base (pedicle). These are usually slightly curved with no branching or a stubby front spike. The face of the male has pronounced black lines on the inside of the pedicles making a 'V' shape. The ears are oval-shaped. Does have no antlers and a dark crown patch on their heads. Both sexes have very large facial glands in front of the eyes.

Listen out for

Vocalisation

Also known as the 'barking deer', muntjac vocalise in many different situations. The fox-like bark is often repeated every few seconds over long periods. Muntjac also scream when distressed. Does and offspring communicate with a series of squeaks.

Look out for

Tracks and signs

Muntjac make very small hoof prints (slots), about 2.5 – 3cm long.



Photo: Dominic Regan

Lifestyle

Feeding

Muntjac selectively browse small amounts of nutritious plants such as herbs and shrubs in several feeding bouts throughout the day. Diet varies depending on availability where the animals live.

Social organisation

Muntjac are usually encountered alone, in buck/doe pairs, or with their young. Small territories are held year-round by bucks, but they are generally tolerant of other males nearby. Does' home ranges overlap and may cover several bucks' territories. The deer are active throughout the day and night but are most likely to be active at dawn and dusk.

Breeding

Muntjac does are capable of breeding at seven months old. They have no fixed rutting season and can reproduce all year round. Does produce a single fawn after a gestation period of seven months. A doe is ready to mate again shortly after giving birth, leading to potentially rapid population growth.

Humans and deer

Although muntjac usually cause relatively little damage to commercial forestry and crops, due to increasing numbers and densities they have become a source of significant environmental concern. Muntjac do produce excellent venison, but stalking of this species tends not to carry the same commercial value as some others. A significant issue associated with their proliferation is an increase in road traffic accidents, with threats to both humans and welfare of the animals themselves.

Where to find them

Origins

The Reeves' or Chinese muntjac is named after John Reeves of the East India Company. It is one of several muntjac species, all of which originate in southeast Asia. The main British introductions occurred at Woburn Park, Bedfordshire in the late 19th century. Feral populations were quick to establish from there and other locations following both escapees and deliberate releases.

Population & distribution

Muntjac deer have proved highly successful at establishing themselves in the British countryside. They are found throughout the country, although with fewer numbers in Wales and the north and west of England. They are currently not present in Scotland, though small populations have been identified in parts of Northern Ireland following illegal introductions. Muntjac deer are quick to exploit new habitats and are rapidly increasing in numbers and range.

Habitat

In their native habitats muntjac are usually residents of subtropical forest, and at first occupied deciduous and coniferous woodland in Britain. Increasingly, however, they have adapted to other habitats throughout the country and now extend into urban areas and gardens with shrubby borders. They prefer areas with dense cover and a diverse range of low-level vegetation.

Seasonal activity

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Antlers cast												
Antlers re-growing												
Winter coat												
Summer coat												
Rut												
Fawn born												



Photo: Marc Baldwin