



Predators Follow Deer

Situations that attract deer for any period of time will also attract their number one predator: LIONS. When people encourage deer to stay in their neighborhoods by feeding them, they are encouraging mountain lions to follow.

Mountain lions will opportunistically prey on livestock or pets and can even pose a danger to humans. As they spend more time in neighborhoods, they grow bolder and lose their fear of humans.

Pictured below: A mountain lion attacking a deer, seen from the porch of an El Dorado Hills resident.



Resources:

California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) Ungulate Information: Keepmewild.org

Residential Deer Dilemma, More Harm Than Good: eldoradocounty.ca.gov/files/assets/countyy/v/1/images/go_vernment/fish-and-wildlife/hot-topics/residential-deer-dilemma.pdf

CDFW Wildlife Mortality Reporting: wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Laboratories/Wildlife-Health/Monitoring/Mortality-Report

To report deer feeding in El Dorado County, contact the local CDFW office at: (916) 358-2900 or R2Info@wildlife.ca.gov

Photo Credits

Predators Follow Deer: Kara Capaldo, Getty Images, Sandra Summerfield
Spreading Disease: Terry Knight
Malnutrition & Starvation: Shelly Blair, Dave Cook
More Deer Hit by Cars: miksov, Getty Images
Physical Hazards: Dave Cook, Shelly Blair

Contact Us:

El Dorado County
Fish & Wildlife Commission
311 Fair Ln, Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-5520
www.eldoradocounty.ca.gov/

Sierra Wildlife Rescue
777 Pleasant Valley Rd
Diamond Springs, CA 95619
(530) 621-4661
sierrawildliferescue.org/



THE DANGERS OF FEEDING DEER

Feeding deer can cost them their lives.



EDC Fish & Wildlife
Commission



Sierra Wildlife
Rescue





Spreading Disease

Feeding deer brings the animals in close and frequent contact with each other, enabling the spread of diseases such as: chronic wasting disease, foot and mouth disease, epizootic hemorrhagic disease, and parasite overloads of lung worm and exotic lice.

Deer can also carry diseases harmful to humans. In 2021, a deer in El Dorado County tested positive for COVID-19. Deer also carry ticks which can spread Lyme disease, a serious illness that is notoriously difficult to diagnose.

Malnutrition & Starvation

Deer are perfectly capable of finding adequate nutrition in the wild on their own, without human interference. Feeding deer causes them to become dependent on artificial food sources and this can have serious consequences.

Deer cannot digest certain types of food, especially **corn and other high sugar foods**. They rely on a delicate balance of micro-fauna in their stomachs for digestion and when this is suddenly disturbed by unnatural foods, they can actually **starve to death in days with a stomach full of food**.

Eating corn can cause fermentation in their digestive system, inflammation and reduced blood flow to the feet. This can eventually lead to difficulty walking and painfully overgrown hooves.



More Deer Hit by Cars

Increased deer populations near busy roadways lead to increased likelihood of vehicle collisions as deer become habituated to humans and more comfortable wandering into roadways.



Feeding Deer is **ILLEGAL**, and for good reason!

Even though deer feed is sold in some local feed stores, that does not make it legal to use. Feeding deer is illegal in the state of California (California Code of Regulations: Title 14, section 251.3). Breaking the law could result in a citation and fines of up to \$1,000.

This law is in place to protect deer and their natural environment. Please, help us keep deer safe by keeping them wild!



Physical Hazards

Deer can become stuck or entangled while searching for food in residential areas. Deer can easily be:

- Trapped between fence bars or wires,
- Tangled in a hammock or clothesline,
- Impaled by decorative fence spikes,
- Stuck in feeding devices, or
- Cut by sharp objects.

