



## Feeding deer is a bad idea. It's also criminal.

Despite the fact that some local feed stores sell commercially produced "deer chow," it is actually illegal in California to feed big game mammals (Title 14, section 251.3). Breaking the law could result in a citation and hefty fines.

[www.keeptomewild.org](http://www.keeptomewild.org)

### For More Information

Contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

#### Northern Region

Redding – (530) 225-2300

#### North Central Region

Rancho Cordova – (916) 358-2900

#### Bay Delta Region

Napa – (707) 944-5500

#### Central Region

Fresno – (559) 243-4005 ext. 151

#### South Coast Region

San Diego – (858) 467-4201

#### Inland Deserts Region

Ontario – (909) 484-0167

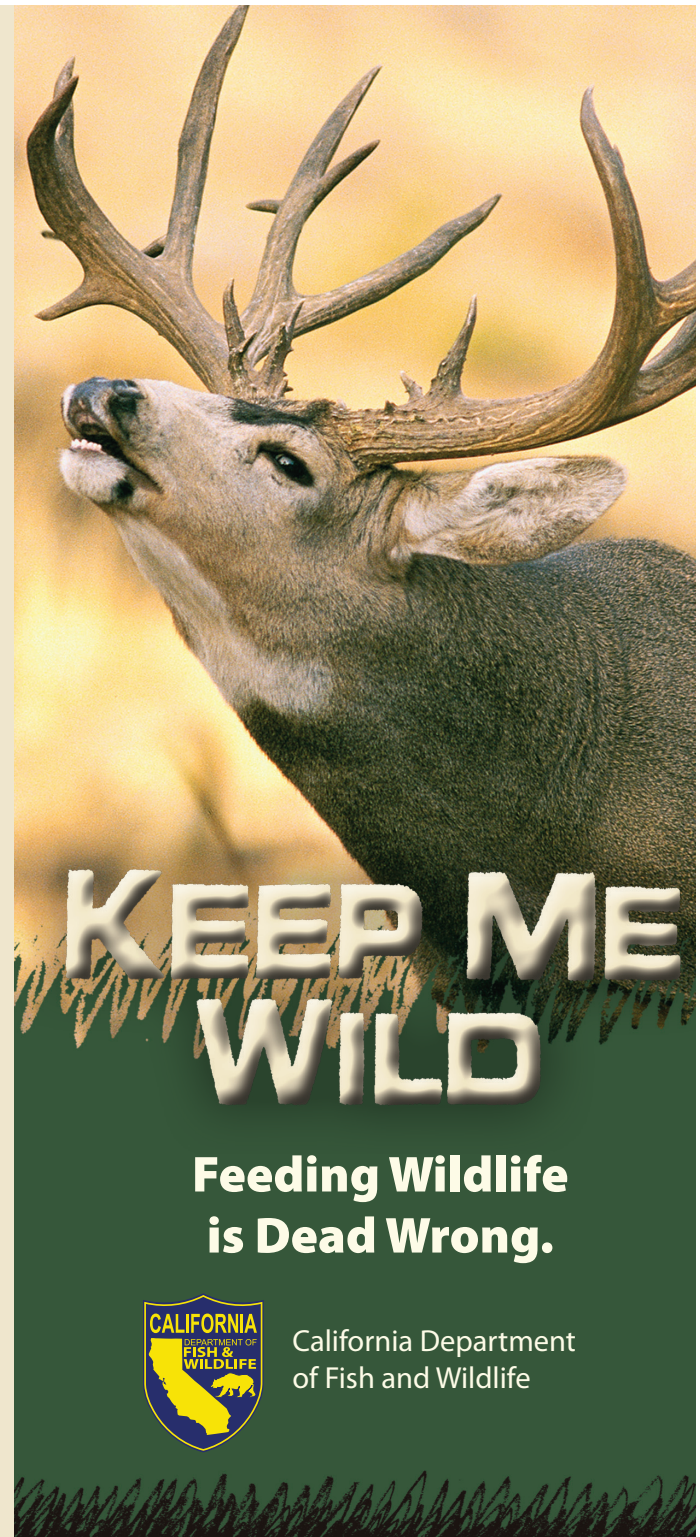
#### Sacramento Headquarters - (916) 322-8911

To order more pamphlets, please call (916) 322-8911 or email [publications@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:publications@wildlife.ca.gov).

Alternate communication methods are available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed, contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, (916)322-8911 or the California Relay Service serving deaf and hearing-impaired residents using TTY/TDD phones, and speech-impaired callers, at (800) 735-2929.



A campaign for all wild animals.



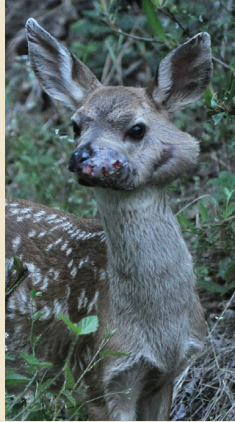


# Feeding deer is against the law...and does more harm than good.

Wild animals naturally fear people and keep their distance. But once they become accustomed to humans, they lose their natural ways and can become dangerous.

By intentionally feeding wildlife on your property, you are setting the stage for conflict.

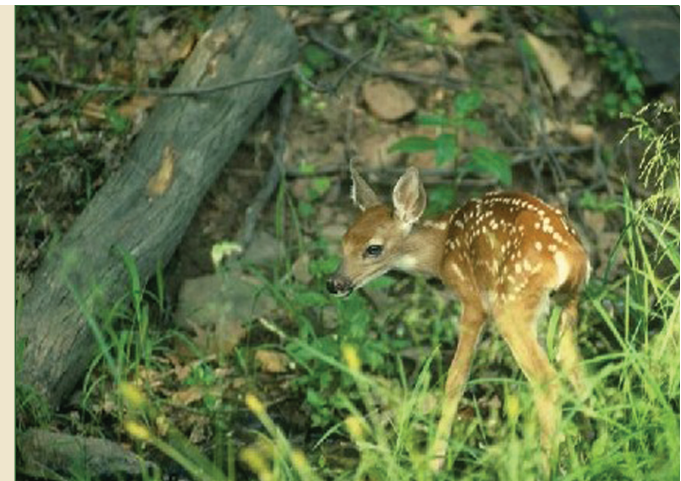
Deer that have grown dependent on artificial food sources can become aggressive with humans, pets and each other. They are more likely to become entangled in fences, hammocks and swing sets, and the potential for property damage and deer/vehicle collisions skyrockets. Deer that congregate are also more susceptible to illness and disease.



*This diseased fawn is an example of what can happen when deer congregate in large numbers at backyard feed sites.*



*A hammock became entangled in this deer's antlers.*



**If you care, leave them there (in the wild, that is!).**

In the spring, does leave their young fawns unattended for many hours at a time as they forage for food. If you find a fawn in the wild, never assume that it has been abandoned. If a fawn appears to be injured or you are certain the mother is not coming back, do not attempt to touch it or move it. Please contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or a local wildlife rehabilitation group (a list of these can be found online at CDFW's website) for further instruction.

**If in doubt about what to do, ask your local wildlife officer or biologist.**

## You Can Help

Please visit [www.keepmewild.org](http://www.keepmewild.org) for downloadable posters, newspaper advertisements and other Keep Me Wild™ materials.

**Remember: where there are deer, there are mountain lions! If you are feeding deer, you may also be attracting hungry predators to your property.**



## How to discourage deer from making themselves at home

**There are steps you can take to discourage deer from frequenting your yard.**

- Check hardware stores for deer-proof fencing material (electric, or eight-foot tall fencing) and motion-sensitive lights and sprinklers that will frighten away deer.
- Remove attractants like fallen tree fruit and bird feeders.
- Consider using commercially prepared deer repellents (available at garden supply stores).
- Refer to CDFW's "A Gardener's Guide to Preventing Deer Damage" (online at [www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/deer.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/deer.html)) for deer-resistant landscaping ideas.