

FAIRFAX COUNTY WILDLIFE



PLEASE DON'T FEED THE DEER

Many residents enjoy seeing white-tailed deer up close and may feel they are contributing to an animal's welfare by providing supplemental food. Although it may be well-intentioned, feeding of deer does more harm than good.

Feeding congregates deer in higher densities and leads to negative consequences at feeding sites, including:

- Increased spread of disease, such as Chronic Wasting Disease, bovine tuberculosis, or brucellosis
- Nutritional problems; rapid changes in winter diet can have harmful, even deadly, outcomes as deer are unable to digest new food, such as corn and grains
- Attraction of predators and nuisance animals, such as coyotes, raccoons, and rodents
- Increased habitat damage to natural areas, forests, crops, gardens, and ornamental plantings
- Dangerous encounters when deer lose fear of humans
- Increased competition and stress at feeding sites

Not only do wildlife officials recommend against feeding deer, it is against the law to feed deer in Fairfax County at any time during the year.

Learn more about the deer feeding ban that is in effect in Fairfax County and help keep our deer healthy and wild.

**FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
ANIMAL SERVICES DIVISION**

Deer Feeding Ban in Fairfax County

- The feeding of deer is prohibited year-round in Fairfax County according to state regulations administered by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR).
- According to 4VAC15-40-285, feeding deer for any reason is illegal statewide within Virginia from September 1 to the first Saturday in January. Further, it is illegal to feed deer during any deer season within any county, city, or town that allows deer hunting.
- As part of the strategy to reduce and slow the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) within deer populations in Virginia, the feeding of deer is also prohibited in any county designated by the DWR within 25 miles of a confirmed detection of CWD, which includes Fairfax County.
- The feeding ban restricts the placement or distribution of any food, salt, mineral or similar substances for any purpose if the placement of these materials results in the attraction of and/or feeding of deer. This does not restrict bona fide agronomic plantings (including wildlife food plots), bona fide distribution of food to livestock or wildlife management activities conducted or authorized by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. The feeding ban applies to both public lands and private properties within Fairfax County.

*Fairfax County Animal Services Division
Animal Protection Police & Wildlife Section
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Fairfax, VA 22030
Dispatch 703-691-2131*

*Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline
Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
& USDA Wildlife Services
855-571-9003 (toll-free)*



Fairfax County
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Animal Services
Division – Wildlife Section:
(703) 246-6868 TTY 711