



Be Deer Smart During Rutting Season

November through December is the deer mating season in Texas, also known as the “rut.” The rutting season is a time to use extra caution when traveling in deer country. The Northwest and southwest areas of Austin are home to most of our local deer herds. However, deer can also be found in central Austin greenbelts and parks.

During the rut, the deer are paying attention to one another and not to humans or automobiles. When you see deer or deer crossing signs this time of year, slow down and be prepared to yield or stop in response to deer activity. If a deer is being chased it may ignore traffic and quickly dart into the street.

It is also smart to steer clear of male deer (bucks) during the rut. If you are walking and approach a buck, keep a safe distance. This is particularly important if you are walking with a dog.

- Always walk dogs on a leash. Keep a safe distance from deer whenever possible.
- Observe posted speed limit signs. Be alert for deer. Slow down and be prepared to yield or stop when deer or deer crossing signs are present and when driving from dusk to dawn.
- To report an injured deer, call the local State Game Warden at (512) 389-4848 or Austin 311.
- To report a dead deer for pickup, call Austin 311. Be prepared to give the operator a specific address or street intersection where the carcass can be located (such as, “on Loop 360 just north of Lakewood Drive”).
- The City will not go onto private property to pick up a dead deer. The carcass must be in the roadway or close to the street/curb right-of-way.

Additional deer information can be found on the city of Austin’s website:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/deer-feeding-ordinance>.