



Be Deer Smart During Fawning Season

The fawning season starts in early spring. Newborns may not be visible to the casual observer for several weeks because of excellent camouflage of their coats and their mother's care in hiding them from predators. Because deer are frequently seen in and around some Austin neighborhoods, the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department wants to remind residents to be aware of the best ways to protect themselves and respect wildlife. Remind your children and neighbors to be deer-smart for the deer's safety and your own.

If you find a fawn, leave it alone. For the first three to four weeks of their lives, the fawns are too small to follow their mothers, and it is normal for a doe to leave a fawn alone for several hours at a time. If you find a fawn, do not move it or try to rescue it. Most fawns are not orphaned or abandoned. Unless the fawn is obviously sick, injured or in an unsafe area, it should be left alone. If you think the fawn is in danger, call Austin Wildlife Rescue at 472-9453 (472-WILD)*.

Remind your children to stay away from the deer. Baby animals naturally draw the attention of curious children. Fawning season in central Texas provides a unique opportunity to teach your children about cycles of life and kindness to animals. Educate your children about the fawning season. Explain to them that the fawns are not abandoned. Teach them that they should stay away from the fawns because the mother is nearby, she will take care of the baby, and the fawn's best chance of survival depends on its being left alone.

Restrain your dogs. Fawns also draw the attention of curious dogs. Walk your dogs on leash. Standard leashes are better than retractable leashes at this time of year in deer country. Off-leash and unrestrained dogs are a primary cause of conflicts with deer.

Use your deer deterrents. If you do not want fawns around your property, now is the time to refresh or activate your deer repellents. Does will not leave fawns in an obviously hostile environment. Mend your fences if you do not like deer.

*Austin Wildlife Rescue, Inc. (www.austinwildliferescue.org) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that rehabilitates and releases orphaned, sick or injured animals and educates the public how to co-exist with wildlife.

Additional information deer information can be found on the city of Austin's website:
<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/deer-feeding-ordinance> .