

Tufted Deer

Scientific Name: *Elaphodus cephalophus*

Class: Mammalia

Order: Artiodactyla

Family: Cervidae



Similar to muntjac, but slightly larger with a head and body length of 43 to 62", a tail length 3 to 6", shoulder height 19.5 to 27.5" and weight of 37 to 110 lbs. They have small unbranched antlers approximately 1 inch long which are often completely hidden by tufts of hair growing from the forehead. The coarse, shaggy coat is a deep chocolate brown with a gray neck and head, the forehead tuft being blackish brown. The underparts, tips of ears and the underside of the tail are white. They have upper canines which in the males become 1" tusks. The young are similar to the adults but have a row of spots along each side of the back. Usually solitary but occasionally travel in pairs. They use a "bark" to communicate with each other, especially during courtship and when alarmed.

Range

South, southeast and central China, northeast Burma

Habitat

Mountainous forest up to 15,000 ft., usually near water

Gestation

180 days

Litter

1-2

Behavior

Usually solitary but occasionally travel in pairs. They use a "bark" to communicate with each other, especially during courtship and when alarmed. When feeding they carry their tail high, while moving or standing still it "flops" showing the white underside with every bounce. Antorbital glands are used for marking territory. Grooming is very important, and they will groom themselves frequently.

Reproduction

Courtship rituals not well described. Mating occurs in late fall and early winter, with 1-2 fawns being born in late spring and early summer.

Wild Diet

Grasses and other vegetation