

# **It is Against the Law to Feed Wild Deer\***

## **Wild Deer Don't Need Your Handouts, They Need Your Respect.**

Feeding deer can cause severe harm. Wild deer are your neighbors and they will not bother you because they naturally fear humans and keep their distance — so long as they remain fully wild.

### **When deer are fed:**

- they lose their natural fear of humans which may result in conflicts.
- they can become aggressive and dangerous.
- you endanger yourself, children, visitors and neighbors. Examples from the Sacramento Bee, October 14, 2009 [Treating wild animals like pets can be dangerous, officials warn.](#)
  - In Lincoln CA, a 76 year old woman, who was accompanied by a woman who had been feeding the deer, was nearly killed by a 120 pound buck. She was walking to her car carrying a baby in a car seat when the deer butted the car seat. She pushed the deer away and it attacked her goring her in the thigh which punctured her femoral artery. A warden was called and the deer was shot.
  - In Cameron Park, a jogger on a lunchtime run, came across a deer drinking from a puddle. The runner gave the deer wide berth and it made no attempt to move. Once the runner passed, the 160 pound buck, which had a broken foreleg, charged him at full speed goring him in the back, hands and knee. He fought off the deer and Fish and Game officials said he was lucky because he outweighed and deer and a smaller person could have been killed. Fish and Game officials shot the deer.
  - A deer in Plumas County, which had grown accustomed to humans because it was being fed, injured an infant
- they congregate in large numbers increasing the possibility of spreading disease among themselves and to humans. Also, deer carry ticks which carry lime disease.
- they are more likely to cause traffic accidents
- you attract deer to your property so you may also be attracting mountain lions which have been sighted in Bodega Bay and possibly in Dillon Beach.

### **Steps you can take to help keep deer wild**

- Never intentionally feed deer.
- Landscape with deer-resistant plants.
- Install motion-sensitive sprinklers to scare them away.
- Consider using commercially prepared deer repellents (available at garden supply stores.)
- Haze them by banging pots or making other loud noises to scare them away
- Report those who feed deer to the California Department of Fish and Game

Feeding deer in California has been illegal since 1996. Penalties include a fine of up to \$1000.00 and six months in jail. Although Fish and Game officials try to warn people before issuing citations, they may be issued on a first visit. To report feeding, call the CA Dept of Fish and Game in Napa at 707-944-5500

## **A Fed Deer is a Dead Deer\*\***

\*\*Quote from, Wildlife Biologist, John Krause with the CA Dept. of Fish and Game, Napa Ca.