



Reeve's Muntjac

Muntiacus reevesi

Range: Native to southeast Asia. A wild population has also been established in England after captive muntjacs escaped from private estates.

Habitat: Normally found in forests, areas of dense vegetation and hilly country from sea level to medium elevations.

Diet: In the wild, they eat primarily grasses, leaves, tender shoots and fallen fruit. They tend to eat before sunrise and late in the evening. They have four chambers in their stomach like deer.

Lifespan: Unknown in the wild and reported at least 18 years in captivity.

Description: Muntjacs range in height from 16-31 inches at the shoulder. They are deep brown to yellowish or reddish in color. Males have antlers that emerge from long stems which extend down the face of the deer. Both male and female have canine teeth that can be more dangerous than their antlers.

Breeding: A muntjac's gestation period lasts 209-222 days. The fawns have spots to help aid in their camouflage.

Behavior/Adaptations: Muntjacs are primarily solitary animals, are highly territorial and use scent glands to scent mark their boundaries. These scent glands are located in the front of their eyes. They are considered the "barking deer" because they have been known to bark for up to an hour. It is thought that this is to alarm others of predators.

Predators: Leopards, Tigers, Crocodiles, Pythons, Jackals, Dhole

Conservation: The muntjac is hunted for their meat and skins and is considered a pest in China. The Fea's muntjac, which is native to Thailand and Myanmar, is highly endangered.

The Zoo's Muntjacs: Both of our muntjacs are male. Edison was born at the Lake Superior Zoo on 6/1/2012. Elmer is his father and he was born in 2010.

Interesting Facts:

- The female makes high-pitched mewling sounds and the male barks during mating season.
- They have an extremely long tongue used to fetch their favorite foods. It can also reach over their face to the eyes.
- With fossil remains dating back 15 to 35 million years, muntjacs are the oldest known species of deer.

Information taken from the following sources:

<http://www.zoo.org/animal-facts/muntjac>

<http://www.arkive.org/reeves-muntjac/muntiacus-reevesi/description.html>

<http://www.zooatlanta.org/home/animals/mammals/muntjac>