



Topic: Deer on the Road

The number of deer estimated to be roaming the woods, highways, and byways is now estimated at 20 to 30 million. In parts of the country such as New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, fear of hitting a deer is part of life on the roadway for almost every driver.

According to the *Humane Society*, it turns out that deer are uniquely suited to our 20th century habitats. Suburbs with lawns, shrubbery, and wooded lots are prime real estate for deer. As the suburbs have spread, deer herds have grown. Road salt meant to melt ice in winter can become a salt lick. Roads bordered by plants become feeding stations. And no one is allowed to hunt deer in the suburbs.



There are more than 500,000 collisions involving deer and motor vehicles each year, resulting in an average repair cost of \$2,000, thousands of personal injuries, and more than 100 deaths. The president of the *Wisconsin Insurance Alliance* states that deer are one of the most significant safety risks they confront, outstripping any other workplace or home hazard in that state. Many accidents take place on the open road, but many occur in the suburbs near large cities.

Motorists have tried such preventive measures as deer whistles attached to their cars, but there is no proof they actually work.

Deer Safety Tips

- ✚ Be aware that a deer may cross the road at any time of the day or night.
- ✚ Slow down and look when you see a “Deer Crossing” sign.
- ✚ Be especially watchful at dawn and dusk when deer are feeding.
- ✚ Be even more cautious during the entire fall mating season when deer are on the move.