

## WHITE TAIL DEER FAWNS

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#1 RULE IS LEAVE FAWNS ALONE. DO NOT BOTHER OR ATTEMPT TO HANDLE FAWNS.

Deer rut (breeding) season can begin as early as October and go thru the following February.

Does remain in heat for approximately one week. Does not impregnated during their first rut will go into heat one month later for another week.

Gestation period is approximately 200 days which means larges number of fawns start dropping in May and early June.

Actual birth can last from a few minutes to several hours. Fawns can weigh from 4 to 8 pounds at birth.

Does can give birth to 1, 2 or 3 fawns. Triplets are unusual.

At birth, fawns have a spotted reddish coat with a silky like hair. There will be several hundred spots to help camouflage the fawn. Fawns lose their spots in 3 to 4 months.

Newly born fawns are nearly odorless. Old myth has it that FAWNS have NO ODOR-NO SMELL. Fawns DO HAVE some odor, however, less than a mature deer.

Does intensely clean their fawns dry by licking away most blood and afterbirth scent, and leads her fawns from the birthing place to a hiding place. She'll return and eat the placenta in order to remove scent of blood. (The placenta is considered to be a likely source of quality nourishment for producing rich deer milk.)

Right after birth the fawns are oriented enough to hide with a vengeance. When a fawn senses/detects trouble they will lay perfectly still or drop in their tracks, should they be standing. (Extremely hazardous if they are on a road or driveway.)

During the initial phase of a fawn's growth much time is spent bedding amid the landscape. Only when the time comes to nurse and groom does the infant stand upright. Its survival is based on its uncanny ability to remain secluded and silent.

New born fawns do not traipse around after their mother (not often). In fact, a Doe will stay away from her fawn for a few days so that her scent doesn't rub off while fawn is hiding and gaining strength. When Doe returns to feed/move fawn she will usually give a light call to get the fawn to get up and join her. This may happen several times a day, and will go on for about a month before the fawn stays with the Doe all times.

Does and fawns do not instantly BOND. The bonding gradually builds by suckling and mutual rooming. The Doe stimulates and consume the urine and feces of the fawn, again to eliminate the scent.

Fawns do not normally make any noise. They will bleat if threatened. If a fawn bleats and the Doe cannot see it, she will come running to the rescue.

A Doe will sometimes protect her fawn if the predator is small, but more often she will not.

The area where a fawn is born normally becomes their adult habitat.