

## Incidents Involving Animals – Initial – Species Prompts

### Wildlife (Deer) Quick Reference Animal Fact Sheets

There are six species of Deer in the UK, they range in order of size from the largest being Red, Fallow, Sika, Roe, Muntjac, through to the smallest one that is a Chinese Water Deer.

#### Key Message:

Deer are nervous prey animals, usually wild and wouldn't normally allow humans near them. They are shy, operating at a heightened alertness at all times. There are a range of sizes both in bodyweight and in males, antler size.

#### Warning Signs and situations that can cause adverse reactions:

- Deer at a scene with large antlers (Male Red, Sika, Fallow) may defend themselves
- Males can present a real danger during their rutting season which for the larger deer is generally between September and November
- Very tiny deer with tusks (Muntjac and Chinese Water Deer) may cause severe lacerations
- Medium size deer with sharp pointed antlers (Male Roe) may defend themselves
- Trapped deer or those still at an incident may die instantaneously due to a stress reaction called capture Myopathy
- Pain may also cause aggressive behaviour

#### Responds to:

- Reduced stimulation
- Cover the head and eyes
- Calm, quiet scene
- Decisive actions

#### When dealing with deer you need to consider:

- Species, size/weight, sex, presence of antlers, time of year (rut?)
- Move slowly and quietly and look ahead to see what the deer is doing and if it has obvious injuries
- Cover the eyes to reduce stress and unwanted movement
- Non-native deer may not be legally released, seek advice from RSPCA
- If a deer is injured, arrange for euthanasia where required or veterinary care
- Options for euthanasia; RSPCA, Police, vet, deer dispatch scheme

#### Associated risks when dealing with deer:

- Fear and aggression responses
- Striking
- Impaling
- Goring