

WESTERN TUFTED DEER

updated March 2017



Range	Southern China to northeastern Myanmar
Habitat	High valley jungles and mountain forests always close to water
Diet (wild)	Grasses and other plants, some fruit, occasional carrion
Diet (captivity)	Grains, pasture free-choice
Description	Height: 20–28 inches; length: 43–63 inches; weight: 37–110 pounds. Males are slightly larger than females. The coat is dark gray to chocolate brown, with gray neck and head. Tufted deer get their name from the tuft of hair on the forehead, which is blackish brown and can be 7 inches long. Their lips, tips of ears and underside of tail are all bright white. There may be a pale streak running around the eye and upwards toward the ears. The coat is very coarse, giving them a somewhat shaggy look. Males have short, simply spiked antlers, sometimes hidden completely by their tuft. Males also have upper canines, which grow up to 1 inch long and often protrude from the mouth like fangs or tusks.
Lifespan	Wild: unknown. Captivity: Over 15 years
Reproduction	Gestation lasts 6 months, after which most often a single birth takes place. Fawns are colored like their parents except for a row of spots on either side of the midline of the back. These disappear when fawns reach maturity at about six months. Fawns are capable of standing soon after birth. Sexual maturity is at 18–24 months. Mating season takes place during late fall and early winter.
Behavior	Tufted deer are active at night, but frequently seen at dawn and dusk. Usually solitary, they occasionally travel in pairs. Tufted deer have incredibly keen vision, hearing and sense of smell. They live within well-defined home territories from which they do not migrate. Within their territories, tufted deer travel well-established paths. Natural predators include leopards and dholes.
Our animals	1 female, 1 male. Born: 09/21/1999 (female); 2014 (male), Birth place: Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (female); Lowry Park Zoo, Fla. (male)
Cool stuff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the mating season, tufted deer males bark to attract mates. Both sexes also bark when alarmed. • When fleeing, they hold their tails up like white-tailed deer. • Tufted deer are the only species in the genus <i>Elaphodus</i> and have not been extensively studied to date. • Tufted deer were first brought the U.S. from China in 1985. and there is a North American breeding program for the species.

Phylum
ChordataClass
MammaliaOrder
ArtiodactylaFamily
CervidaeGenus
*Elaphodus*species
E. cephalophus