



Western Tufted Deer

Elaphodus cephalophus



Levi

My birthday is **May 3rd, 2010**

I am **timid** and **shy**. I am usually hiding or grazing in a secluded area, but if you are quiet enough and wait, I might come out when I feel comfortable

You can find me at **Stork Aviary**. I am usually grazing throughout my enclosure, but you can sometimes see me inside my barn stall.

TUFTED DEER AT A GLANCE

- I have a **tuft** of hair between my ears that hide my **small antlers**.
- The tuft of hair is a **darkish brown** and a different color than the rest of my body.

- I have **two fang-like canines** that both males and females have; they can grow up to **2.6 cm** (1 in) long
- I use them to help me **defend** my territory or **attract** mates.

- I am belong to the **artiodactyla** order meaning that I bear weight eventually on two toes
- Two of my five toes, usually the third and fourth one, form a specialized foot called a **hoof**.

Shoulder height of
1.6- 2.3 feet tall



Adult size:
3.6-5.3 ft long
37-122 lbs

Coats are short and dense with spiky hair, giving a shaggy appearance.

Avg. life expectancy in the wild:
unknown

Avg. life expectancy in human care:
up to 15 years

WHERE ARE TUFTED DEER HABITATS LOCATED?



Western tufted deers can be found in the high valley jungles and mountain forests of northeastern Myanmar and southern and central China. They prefer high altitudes of between 300 and 4600 meters above sea level.

Tufted Deer Behavior

LONER

I am a solitary animal that prefers to be myself. I only am found in a pair when I want to mate.

I enjoy having “me time” outside listening to all the wild birds that fly by.



CALLS

I make a loud bark when I am alarmed or I see someone in my territory.

I am letting you know that this is my area. I would appreciate it if you would respect my space.



HIDING

I am a shy animal and prefer to hide and be allusive. I prefer it to be quiet in my enclosure.

I am not gone from my enclosure. I like to be out of sight where I feel safe. I am crepuscular; I am active during the evening and early morning.



PATROLLING

I protect my territory and will defend it from other deers with my tusks and antlers.

If you see me walking around my enclosure, I am patrolling my area and making sure nothing is out of ordinary.

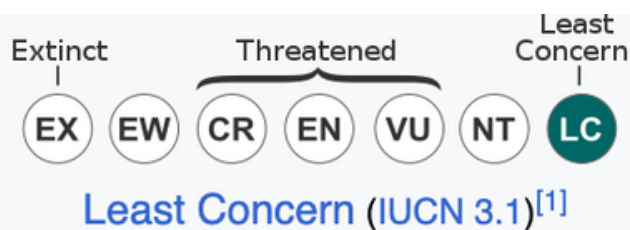


- They are both **browsers** and **grazers**; they eat leaves, twigs, fruits, and grass in the wild. At the zoo, Levi eats grains, greens, and alfalfa
- If they are running away from predators, they will lift their **tail** with a **white underside** and wiggle it around to confuse them
- They have **antorbital gland** found near their eye. They will rub their face on objects to **mark their territory**

Tufted Deer Conservation

Overhunting and over-harvesting in China a serious threat not only to this species. The hide of this deer is a fairly high-end textile material, especially after the vigorous conservation efforts made on other more endangered species.

They are listed as **Near Threatened** on **IUCN Red List**. Very little research and data has been accumulated on them; however, populations are declining. Tufted deers require forest habitat to live in, and unfortunately, irresponsible farming and logging has resulted in deforestation.



How can we help?

Responsible tree removal and yard practices like planting native planting, composting leaves, and reducing the need for fertilizers are ways to protect habitats in Wisconsin and prevent excess phosphorus in our waterways.

Following your ordinances and laws when it comes interacting with nature whether by hunting or foraging is crucial for the safety of us and the safety of animals.