

Animal Collisions When Driving



The growing deer population combined with the displacement of animal habitats are making it more dangerous on the road, and making teen crashes more likely.

There's no real way to keep large animals like deer, moose, and elk off the road, but teaching your teen driver these important safety tips can help prevent animal-car collisions.

Avoiding Animals in the Road

- **Stay Alert.** Pay attention to 'deer crossing' signs and be cautious in areas near woods or water.
- **Use High Beams.** Flicking your high beams on a deer in the road may cause the animal to scurry away. High beams also help illuminate dark roads.
- **Don't Swerve.** If a deer-car crash is inevitable, maintain control of your vehicle and don't veer off the road.
- **Brake as Necessary.** If you can avoid hitting the animal, reduce your speed, honk your horn, and tap your brakes to warn other drivers. If there are no drivers behind you, brake hard.
- **Remember Peak Season.** Deer crashes happen most during October through December, which is hunting and mating season.
- **Remember Meal Time.** Watch for animals in the road between dusk and dawn.
- **Watch for Herds.** If you see one deer, there are probably more nearby.

- **Don't Use a Whistle.** No scientific evidence supports that car-mounted deer whistles work.
- **Wear Seat Belts.** Always obey speed limits and wear seat belts.