

# Reeves' Muntjac

*Muntiacus reevesi*

**Class:** *Mammalia*

**Order:** *Artiodactyla*

**Family:** *Cervidae*

## Characteristics:

Muntjacs include 12 species of deer native to South Asia and are the oldest known deer species. Remains can be seen in the fossil record 15 to 35 million years ago. They have both antlers and tusks—elongated canines. They are placed within a group loosely known as “fanged deer” which include musk deer, water deer, muntjac and tufted deer. Muntjac have excellent sight and hearing.

## Behavior:

Like all fanged deer, the Reeves's or Chinese muntjac are small, shy, and flighty. They are known for making a sharp, barking sound as their alarm call. Because of this unique call, they are nicknamed “barking deer.” They require large amounts of cover and are often located close to water sources.

They are crepuscular, meaning most active at dawn and dusk. Both males and females are solitary and territorial and will scent mark their territories with preorbital (in front of the eye) glands. The male's territory often overlaps with the females nearby.

## Reproduction:

Reeves's muntjac commonly make their barking sound during breeding season. They become sexually mature between 6 to 12 months old and males will normally mate with the females near their territory. Females give birth to one or two young after a seven month gestation period and the young are weaned at around two months. Mom kicks them out shortly before she is ready to breed again.

## Diet:

Wild: grasses, leaves, fruits, seeds, tender shoots and bark

Zoo: apples, carrots, sweet potatoes. Alfalfa and mixed greens

## Conservation:

They are at low risk for population decline and are even considered pests to gardeners and foresters as they breed year round.

**FYI:** Sometimes jokingly called “vampire deer” because of the males' elongated canines.



## **Range & Habitat:**

Native to the deciduous and tropical forests throughout southern China and Taiwan. Introduced to Great Britain for hunting and have even made it into southern France.



**Lifespan:** around 20 years in captivity, up to 17 years in the wild

**Special Adaptations:** Preorbital scent glands, both antlers and tusks

## **IUCN Conservation Status:**

Least Concern

