

# Whitetail Deer in Texas



## **When is the breeding season?**

The breeding season for white-tailed deer in Texas ranges through the fall and winter months from about the first of September through mid-January. The peak breeding activity occurs in mid-November in Central Texas and late December in South Texas.

## **How many fawns will a doe have?**

Normally, a doe will have her first fawn, which is usually a single, when she is two years old. Thereafter, if food conditions are adequate, the doe should normally have twin fawns almost every year until her sixth or seventh year, when the reproductive rate will begin to decline. Triplet fawns are uncommon, but do occur. Quadruplets have been reported.

## **Is it a good idea to approach & rescue a newborn or abandoned fawn?**

**NO**, when a fawn is born it is odorless so that predators are not attracted to its location. In fact the mother doe will stay away from the fawn for a few days so that her scent does not rub off on the fawn or attract predators to the area where the fawn is hiding while gaining strength. An individual should **NEVER** approach a fawn for the purpose of rescue; fawns that live past the first week have a good chance of surviving to adulthood.

## **Can I legally raise a fawn as a pet?**

**NO**, it is illegal for any person to own, possess, or have custody of on his premises any wild game animal as a pet within the State of Texas; unless specifically allowed by law.