

# ANIMAL OF THE MONTH

## Hog deer



### Habitat and distribution

- *Axis porcinus* (Hog deer) appears to prefer dense forests however they observe in clearings, grasslands and occasionally wet grasslands. This variation is usually associated with the time of year and food distribution.
- Native to native to the region of the Indian subcontinent and Indo-Gangetic Plain. Introduced populations are established in Australia, as well as the United States and Sri Lanka.

### Description

- Built for creeping/blush hugging, it has powerful cervid with a stocky, muscular body.
- The limbs are noticeably short and delicate; the hind limbs are longer than forelimbs, raising the rump to a height greater than that of shoulders. The face is short and wedged shaped.
- Adult have pelage that is coarse and the overall coloration is a dark olive brown; however, the guard hairs have white tips.
- Fawns are brown with a pale sandy-yellow color and with cream colored horizontally distributed spots along their flanks. At approximately six months this coloration gradually gives way to adult coloration.

### Diet

- Hog deer feed nocturnally. They both graze and browse but seem to prefer grazing. Typical foods include grasses, leaves and fruits.



### Threats

- Hunting primarily for bush meat
- Habitat loss due to agriculture and settlement  
Fragmentation of population
- Hog deer population has experienced dramatic declines in the past few decades and now survive in isolated pockets of suitable habitats.

### Fun Facts

- The Hog Deer are solitary animals and not found in large herds.
- They make a whistling sound when alarmed and give a warning bark.
- They have a habit of rushing through grass with their head down like a pig, rather than bounding or leaping over obstacles like other deer species.

### Conservation status

IUCN Red List: Endangered

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