

The Reindeer Handler

September 2023





[https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/
pii/S0003347264901174](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0003347264901174)

Abstract

This paper deals with rutting behaviour in two groups of reindeer studied at the Reindeer Research Station in Swedish Lapland. The first rutting behaviour are described as well as the establishment of the harem and its ruler. Old bulls copulate more often than younger ones earlier occurrence of rut in these, their stronger fighting ability and the fact that old bulls are more polygamous than their younger rivals

The chasing away of intruders, and the constant herding of his own herd, keeps the ruling bull very active. Since, furthermore, he does not comes very thin during the rutting season.

The size of the area necessary for a harem varies. A big bull with a large harem is able to keep his rivals away from a considerably greater young bull with a small number of cows.

The rutting territory seems not to be defined by particular geographical boundaries, but is an area, which changes with the movement of and has no topographical references. The author has observed nothing that indicates territory markings in the proper sense, but the bull his hind legs, especially at threatening and exciting moments, and this behaviour may be interpreted as a form of territory marking.

The rutting sound of the bull is a series of husky, rapid, rather low-voiced rattles that are brought about by the air being repeatedly pressed lungs. The sound differs slightly from that made when the bull is driving in the immediate vicinity of a cow.

Threat behaviour has been described as well as overflow activities resulting from a high level of aggressive behaviour. A typical rutting behaviour could be characterized as courting, is the bull's driving of the cows, i.e. the bull's running or walking after a cow depending on her heat stage

Aggressiveness on the part of the ruling bull is more evident against older rivals than against younger ones, and old cows are particularly against young bulls.

The first copulations usually take place during the last days of September. Mating activity reaches its peak at dusk and at dawn. Copulations take place only once with each cow. The heat development of the cow has been described as well as the copulation act.



From Cheryl Saho Reis

This craft uses thin antlers and a compound miter saw. I used this saw to cut the antlers. Make sure you wear goggles because sometimes the pieces of antler will fly off of the base. I also used a cardboard box around the sides to keep the antlers from flying off of the base. I drilled small holes in the top of the antler and attached earring jump rings and wire hangers. The jewelry cards, jump rings and earring holders can all be found on Amazon or at Michael's.



A Book Review

By Ethel Evans

Velvet Antlers, Velvet Noses

The Story of a Reindeer Family

Written by: Tilly Smith

This story begins with a herd of reindeer being raised in northern Scotland,
after
World War II. The author and her husband, initially work for a Sami man, Mr. Utsi,
and
eventually purchase the herd.

The book was written in 1995, and follows the life cycle of a reindeer from
the moment
the calf is born. Tilly shares some of her memorable experiences with the reindeer.

Her
family's life with the reindeer, which includes her two children, is open to the
public, and
visitors are encouraged to interact with the deer. The book is well written,
providing an insight





Immobilization

<https://eurekamag.com/research/002/952/002952934.php> sedation, immobilization and anesthesia of Reindeer

BABESIA

https://atrium.lib.uoguelph.ca/xmlui/bitstream/handle/10214/14265/Milnes_Ellie_201809_Dvsc.pdf?sequence=5&isAllowed=y
treatment protocol Bronx Zoo herd

How reindeer evolved from the freezing cold

<https://www.science.org/content/article/how-reindeer-evolved-survive-freezing-arctic-winters>

Reindeer domestication much earlier than previously thought, evidence found in Northern Siberia 2,000 years old

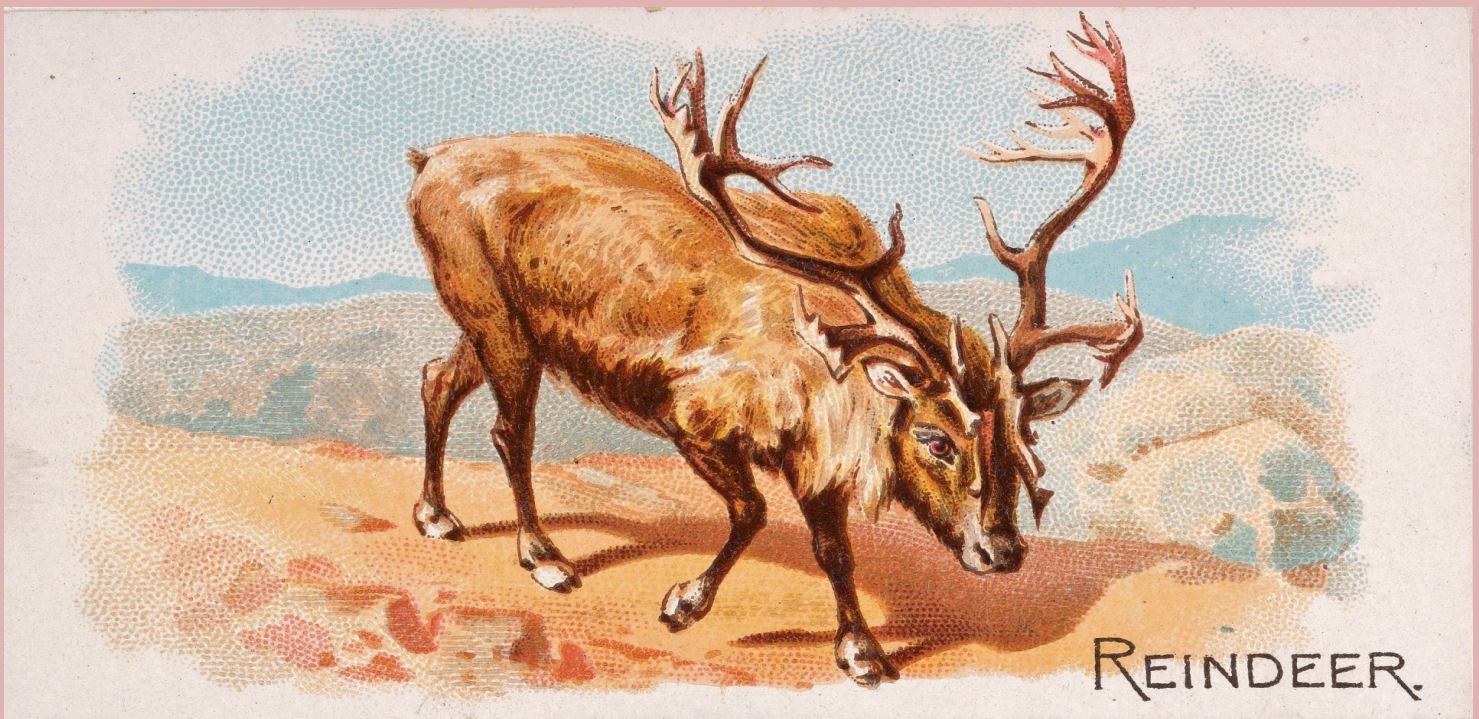
<https://www.ualberta.ca/folio/2020/06/reindeer-were-domesticated-much-earlier-than-previously-thought-new-study-suggests.html>

Reindeer travel linked to DNA

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-00357-3>

Reindeer facts

- 1) Reindeer live in the **Arctic tundra** and damp forests of **Greenland, Scandinavia, Russia, Alaska** and **Canada**. In North America, reindeer are known as **caribou** – pronounced 'kar-i-boo!'
- 2) As the name suggests, reindeer are a species of **deer**. They are the only deer species in which both the male *and* female can grow **antlers**. In fact, males' antlers can grow up to a whopping **1.4 metres** in length and have as many 44 points, called '**tines**'.
- 3) Reindeer can live for up to **15 years in the wild**, although domesticated reindeer (reindeer that are cared for by humans), can live for as long as **20 years**.
- 4) When grazing, a reindeer's preferred food is a **lichen** – a fungi, moss-like plant that's often found in high, open spaces. In fact, it's so popular with reindeers that it's now become known as '**reindeer lichen!**'
- 5) Humans have hunted reindeer for thousands of years for their **meat, milk, fur** and **antlers** – which can be fashioned into tools. For groups of people in Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden and Finland), Russia, China and Mongolia, reindeer herding is an ancient and important part of their culture.
- 6) Male reindeer can grow up to **1.2 metres** tall at the shoulder and weigh up to **250 kilograms** – that's over three times the weight of an average person! Females are a little smaller than males.
- 7) These beautiful beasts may be big, but they are still the target of hungry **predators!** **Wolverines, bears**, and even **eagles** are just some of the animals that prey on reindeer.
- 8) Reindeer spend up to **40% of their lives in snow**, so they've developed **special adaptations** to help them survive the chilly conditions. Their **cloven hooves** (divided into two) spread their weight, helping them stand on snow and soft ground. Their **hollow fur** helps to trap heat, and they're **good swimmers**, too!
- 9) Have you watched the movie **Frozen II**? The make-believe **Northuldra tribe** you see in the Enchanted Forest are based on the **Sámi people** – the famous reindeer herders of northern Norway! The **Sámi** really do use reindeer to **pull sleighs** through the snow, just like **Sven** does in the movie (and **Santa** does on Christmas Eve)!
- 10) Believe it or not, reindeer actually do have red noses like **Rudolph!** Well, sort of... Lots of tiny **veins circulate warm blood** around their nose, heating up the air they breathe in so they don't get cold – *clever!*





Court Case Law listing Reindeer as semi & domestic animals

For purpose of any owner being told by USDA they have to be listed as "exotic hoofstock" and why that is incorrect

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/4300.1>

No other new or changed regulations to report

<https://www.thecavalrygroup.com/JOIN>



THE TM
CAVALRY GROUP

PROTECTING AND DEFENDING ANIMAL ENTERPRISE