

Please Welcome, the Siberian Musk Deer, or *Moschus moschiferous* OR... *The RUSSIAN VAMPIRE DEER*

Siberian Musk Deer are known to use their extremely powerful hind-limbs to bound across the landscape, as well as bouncing off trees, and jumping between rocky outcroppings in their mountainous boreal forest environment while evading predators

Generally living on a diet of mosses, lichens, forbs, and needles, musk deer are primitive ruminants that live by night, foraging in the darkness, and along the way establishing trails within their home range, for both navigation and easier movement through the deep snow common to their native habitat during the winter



While there are other species within the genus specific to musk deer, *Moschus*, the Siberian Musk Deer inhabits much of Eastern Russia, Mongolia, Northern China, and even into Sakhalin Island



Recognized immediately for their protruding canine teeth, males of the species are highly territorial and will use their fangs to defend their home range when provoked

Musk deer are generally extremely solitary, only gathering in polyamorous groups for 6 weeks at a time during the winter mating season. However, musk deer maintain territory primarily through olfactory communication by means of their natural musk substance. Males will establish their territory to encompass the home range of two to three females, using their musk. Should other males want to encroach on some of that territory, they will make high-pitched barks and hisses at each other, until one decides to give up his claim



Commonly mislabeled as a member of the Cervidae family, Musk deer belong to their own genus *Moschus*, and their own family Moschidae.

Their name originates from the musk producing gland located just posterior to the navel on males of the species. The gland is used to mark the male's territory, and the secreted musk substance is EXTREMELY pungent. Musk is used in traditional medicine practices by people indigenous to the Musk Deer's native habitat, as well as in commercial luxury products such as perfumes and colognes

LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	< VULNERABLE >	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX

The IUCN has designated Siberian Musk Deer as a 'Vulnerable' species, due to extensive habitat loss and unrelenting hunting by poachers looking for a payday. Natural musk has been known to sell for over \$40,000 per kilogram in the animal-product black markets