



INTENTIONAL FEEDING OF DEER ORDINANCE



Share this with your neighbors!

The City of Austin adopted an ordinance on February 23, 2009 prohibiting intentional feeding of deer. The ordinance amends the City Code to add Chapter 10-8 which:

- Prohibits intentional feeding of or making food available to deer within City limits
- Creates a Class C Misdemeanor for violations
- Establishes a fine of not less than \$75 or more than \$125

SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING CAN HARM DEER

Feeding congregates deer into unnaturally high densities that:

- Artificially increase birth rates resulting in even higher populations
- Cause over-browsing of local vegetation and ornamental plants
- Increase the number of deer-vehicle collisions
- Lower the instinctive fear deer have toward humans and domestic animals
- Increase the number of negative deer/human and deer/pet confrontations

HOW TO REPORT A VIOLATION

Let's work together to share this information with your neighbors. They may not be aware of this ordinance or that supplemental feeding causes harm to deer. If someone continues to feed deer, here's two ways to report it:

1. The Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department's Rodent and Vector Program is responsible for administering and enforcing the ordinance. To report a deer feeding complaint, call the Program's Deer Feeding Ordinance information/message line at (512) 972-5692 or e-mail ECHU.service@ci.austin.tx.us
2. File a written complaint with the City's Municipal Court (see attached)

IMPORTANT TIPS TO REMEMBER

- Don't feed or make food available to deer
- Educate yourself about the negative impacts of supplemental feeding
- Deer will not starve if supplemental food is withdrawn or unavailable
- Communicate to your neighbors that feeding deer is illegal and could cause harm
- Landscape your yard with plants that deer do not prefer to eat. Find more information about deer resistant plants at www.austintexas.gov/animals/deer