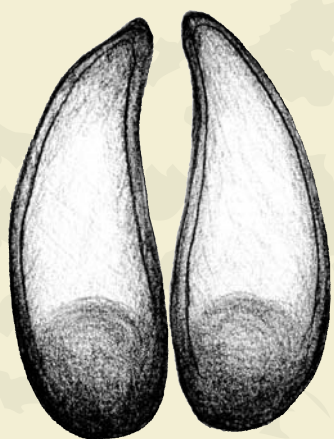
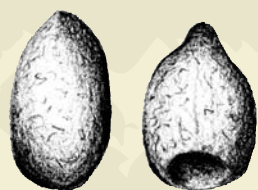




## THE SIGNS PRESENCE OF RED DEER



The hoof print (slot) is relatively large, coffee-bean shaped. Male slot is 8-9 cm long and 6-7 cm wide on average, female one is 6-7 cm long and 4-5 cm wide.



Pellets are dark coloured, 2-2,5 cm long, with a diameter of 1,3-1,8 cm. They have a cylindrical shape, with a pointed extremity.



Red deers leave evident signs on small trees and shrubs by fraying on them to clean the antlers from velvet.



During the moult they loose hair tufts.



## FAUNAL AREA OF PEIO

The Faunal Area is located in Runcal, between Peio Fonti and Peio Paese, and includes around 4,5 hectares of woodlands and open grasslands. It was built in the eighties to recover injured and sick Ungulates found in the Park, that aren't likely to be released again in the wild, even after having completed their recovery.

## WHAT IS ALLOW and WHAT IS FORBIDDEN

**In the Faunal Area is allowed:** to observe, to take pictures and videos.

**In the Faunal Area is forbidden:** to shout, to feed animals, to litter, and to enter the corrals.

## WHERE IT IS



## CONTACTS

**Peio Faunal area**  
Tel: 0463.753106

**Park Main Office**  
E-mail: [info.tn@stelviopark.it](mailto:info.tn@stelviopark.it)  
Tel: 0463.746121

**Cogolo Visitors Centre**  
E-mail: [cvpeio@stelviopark.it](mailto:cvpeio@stelviopark.it)  
Tel: 0463.754186

**Rabbi Visitors Centre**  
E-mail: [cvrabbi@stelviopark.it](mailto:cvrabbi@stelviopark.it)  
Tel: 0463.985190

*Texts: di Natalia Bragalanti  
Drawings: di Giacomo Valorz*



foto G. Albo

# Red deer



PARCO NAZIONALE DELLO STELVIO

NATIONAL PARK STILFSER JOCH



AREA FAUNISTICA DI PEIO



## SYSTEMATICS

CLASS:	Mammalia
SUPERORDER:	Ungulata
ORDER:	Artiodactyla
SUBORDER:	Ruminantia
FAMILY:	Cervidae
SUBFAMILY:	Cervinae
GENUS:	<i>Cervus</i>
SPECIES:	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>

## BODY SIZE

	MALE	FEMALE
WEIGHT (kg)	100-300	70-130
HEIGHT AT SHOULDER (cm)	105-140	95-110
BODY LENGTH (cm)	185-210	150-185

## BIOLOGY

The name of **red deer** depends on the reddish brown coloration of the summer coat that becomes brownish grey in winter.

There are big differences between sexes: females are smaller and less robust than males, and besides, have a lengthened head and a thin neck. Unlike males they don't have antlers.



foto F. Cao

**Antlers** are made of two branched bony structures that are lost every year between February and April. Their rapid regrowth occurs with the formation of new bony tissue, covered by velvet (a greatly vascularized layer of dense and short hair), that has been removed between July and August by rubbing the antlers on branches or small trunks. The velvet removal signs the end of antlers' regrowth, whose shape and development depend on age, genetic characteristics and living conditions of the animal.



foto M. Menegus

The **natural habitat** of red deer consists of big woodlands characterized by frequent open lands. Red deer is herbivorous, so it eats both grass and foliage.

With the start of **rutting season**, single males join female groups, attracting them with their typical roar (this is the reason why rutting season is also called roaring season).



foto F. Renzi

Births usually occur between the end of May and June and only one calf is born. Calves' coat is dark brown with typical white spots that disappear after three months, useful either to be recognised by the mother (calves in this period are totally without smell) and to fool predators. The mother leaves the calf hidden in long grass or dense undergrowth for all the first period of life and joins it 4-5 times a day to suckle and clean it. The total absence of movement and smell, together with the spotted coat, increases the camouflage of the calf in the shady lighting typical of its hiding place. It's really important to avoid to go close to calves, since our smell scares the mother that then doesn't come back to feed them, thus putting their lives in danger: touching a calf will cause for sure its death!

## ROARING SEASON

During the **roaring season** adult males display strong calls similar to hoarse moos, that can be heard especially at night, sunrise and dusk; in this way real vocal fights start, based on the intensity and the frequency of these roars, with which the animals show each other their mating potentiality. When fights are not resolved by threat or dominant displays, they seldom become physical too. The winner male conquers the group of females and mate with them.



foto F. Martegani

When the mating period ends, dominant male have spent all their energy to the mate activities, neglecting to feed and rest themselves, so they are really weak and they have lost the 20-30% of their weight.

It's really peculiar to visit the Park during the peak of the rutting period between the end of September and the beginning of October: it is an unforgettable experience to hear the impressive roar of a lot of red deers in the otherwise silence valleys!



foto F. Martegani