



# SIKA DEER

*Cervus nippon*



The sika deer is a highly vocal species, and 10 different sounds have been recorded. These noises range from soft whistles used by does to communicate with each other, to "goat-like bleats" from does to fawn, to "soft, horse-like neighs" from fawn to does, to "loud, blood-curdling" screams produced by males, to an alarm call described as either a "sharp scream, a high-pitched whistle followed by a guttural bark, or a chirp-like sound". Sika deer also use usual postures and touch in communication. They use chemical cues to convey information about reproductive status and territorial boundaries



## SPECIES QUICK FACTS

### SIZE

Sika deer are 2 to 3 feet high at the shoulder with a body length of 4 to 6 feet.

### WEIGHT

Sika deer weigh between 100 and 175 pounds.

### FOOD HABITS

The diet of the sika deer includes marsh grasses, fallen leaves, brushy vegetation, herbs, fungi, bamboo, and ground ferns.

### HABITAT

The sika deer prefers forested areas with a dense understory.

### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The native range of the sika deer is found in far eastern Asia, including parts of Siberia, China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam. They have been introduced to many other parts of the world.

### FUN FACT

Sika deer are excellent swimmers and readily enter the water to escape predators. Surprisingly, these deer are capable of swimming up to 8 miles out to sea.