



Look Boy's and Girl's  
**It's "BAMBY"**

NO! It's a:  
*Odocoileus hemirous*  
a.k.a.

# MULE DEER



*"Living With Urban Wildlife"*

Vol. #1 - **SAFETY BULLETIN** - Issue #6

*By: Commissioner James Etter*

**Why is Bamby on the List of Los Angeles County's Wildlife to be careful around, according to "Fish and Wildlife" Commissioner James Etter?**

The Mule Deer (Called "Mule" because the ears of this species of Deer, looks like that of a Mule)

**According to The United States National Park Service**

**There are more injuries reported every Summer from The Mule Deer To VISITORS than any other animal in the National Park system!**

A DEER is usually not going on the attack or trying to gore anyone with sharp antlers, however; your behavior around this usually placid "Beautiful" animal should end with a nice moment by seeing a Wonderful ("Loveable") animal in the wild.

Accidents or injuries usually occur by getting too close to the animal. Visitors to our National Parks sometimes surround the deer without fear and feed them human foods.

As you run out of snacks to feed the deer, the animal may "coax" another hand-out by raising their front legs in the air to gain your attention and inadvertently "RAKE" their sharp hoofs across your body. Those Hoofs cause major cuts or lacerations to visitors every year.

*Continued*

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## *"Living With Urban Wildlife"*

### Safety Bulletin #6 Continued

A deer who approaches you has likely experienced other humans who have spoiled their "Wild Side" by feeding them. The animal also at time appears Curious, but that curiosity can change quickly, dependent upon your response and how the animal perceives you; so a docile animal might become aggressive. They may even try to fend you away with that rack of antlers, which could inflict great harm.



Don't provoke or mess with this animal. According to the Encyclopedia-Brittanica, a Human (YOU) can run only about 6 MPH. A Deer can run 35 MPH.

I could NOT find any <sup>1</sup>REI Professional SAFETY Advice Posted on The Mule Deer, however; my advice from personal experiences and talking with Wildlife Professionals, Park Rangers and others who encounter these animals often is posted below in Red.

- **When a Deer (or other similar animal like an Elk, Pronghorn, even a Moose) charges you,** it usually is a Bluff to Warn you to get out of their space. **BACK AWAY SLOWLY** and in dealing with any Wild Animal, **Keep EYE CONTACT.** Flinching or looking away signals to them **WEAKNESS.** ( <sup>2</sup>Herbivores like deer do not see you as a meal.)
- **If there is a reasonable distance between you and the animal and a pathway, RUN!** The animal is usually bluffing if they pursue you. However; if they do chase after you, it's usually only a few feet. You are just a big nuisance and they want you to "Go Away".
- **If You get too close and they come at you, Play Dodge Ball, ducking behind trees, or rocks!** A Deer usually cannot follow you and will give-up the pursuit. Normally a Deer charges with their head down, so close-up objects become difficult to connect with.

### **You can look-up all (10) Wildlife Safety Tips by Commissioner Etter on the L.A. County site!**

- 1.) In your URL Put: ***Meet The Fish and Wildlife Commissioners.***
- 2.) On the top Right (in the blue field) 'click" on: ***Resources.*** This will take you to all 10 Safety Bulletins by Commissioner Etter. (#1. Intro – #2. Bears – #3. Mt'n Lions – #4. Coyotes - #5. Rattlesnakes - #6. Deer - #7. Varmints (Rats, Possums, Skunks, etc.) #9. Creating a Safe Home. #10. "SAFE" Hiking, Camping, (Glamping) Back Packing, Picnics.

**DISCLAIMER:** Information or Advice in this Safety Bulletin(s) are ONLY ADVISORY from Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Etter and does NOT necessarily reflect the opinions of other Commissioners or the County Board of Supervisors or any other County Employee.

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<sup>1</sup> REI: **Recreational Equipment Inc.** (A Co-Op) who posts PROFESSIONAL ADVICE on Outdoors/Wilderness events and Animal Safety. Learn more. In your URL put: REI (This will take you to The REI site that hosts similar information as the series authored by: Commissioner Etter, *"Living With Urban Wildlife"*)

<sup>2</sup> **Herbivore:** Eats ONLY Vegetations, not Meat.