



BINĀDU (Philippine deer) *Cervus mariannus*

Introduced Species

Regulated Game Species

Binādu, or Philippine deer, were brought to Guam by the Spanish about 200 years ago. Originally from the Philippines, this species of deer adapted well to the environment on Guam and eventually spread all over the island.

Male deer are called bucks, or toru in Chamorro. They average about 125 pounds, but the largest ones can weigh as much as 300 pounds. Female deer or does, known as bāka in Chamorro, are smaller and average about 80 pounds. The bucks grow pointed antlers which are used to fight other males and to get the attention of does. The antlers fall off at the end of the breeding season and the buck grows a new, larger set the following year. Does very rarely have antlers; those that do are called "spiked does". Does have one fawn, or baby, each year.

Binadu are mostly found in the forest, where they eat a variety of bushes and grass. Does make a deep-throated barking sound, while bucks and fawns have a squeaky whining call. This animal is shy and sometimes easier to hear than see in the forest. Deer "sign," such as droppings (called pellets) and hoofprints, is more easily found.

Binadu are protected by law and may be hunted only by licensed hunters during the legal hunting season. Anyone 13 years or older is eligible for a hunting license, which can be purchased from the Department of Agriculture's Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources in Mangilao or at any authorized vendor. Deer hunting split-season runs from October through December and all of September the following year. Legal hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Licensed hunters are allowed to take one antlered deer each season.

People who hunt deer all year long using spotlights at night are known as "poachers." This is against the law and bad for the deer population. It also deprives legal hunters and those who enjoy watching deer of their legitimate recreation. Deer generally are less common in the central and southern areas of the island, but are more plentiful in northern forests, especially in areas where they are protected from poaching.