



Guide to Hunting in Germany

08b – FALLOW DEER (*DAMWILD*)



Breeding season (*Brunftzeit*):

Gestation period:

Young are born:

Teeth:

Males:

Females:

Young female:

Young male:

Herd:

end of October – mid November

30-34 weeks

June (one, sometimes two)

32

Hirsch, Damhirsch

Tier, Damtier

Kalb

Damhirschkalb

Rudel



U.S. Forces Europe Hunting, Fishing, and Sport Shooting Program

Guide to Hunting in Germany

Fallow deer can be found in the northern regions of Germany, Schleswig-Holstein and Niedersachsen, in the former East German states and in smaller populations all over Germany. Fallow deer are kept on farms within fences for venison production.

Fallow deer descend from the Near East, the Romans already imported fallow deer into Europe.

The fallow deer has many color variations, from black to a yellow brown. During the winter the long hair generally is dark-grayish brown and the abdominal hair inside of the legs is grayish-white.

In summer, fallow deer normally have a reddish-brown coat with numerous white spots in lines along the body. These spots are almost invisible in winter. Along the backbone is an almost black stripe, bordered by white spots. Newborn calves have the same color until winter. Some fallow deer are born with all black or all white coloration.



Fallow stag



Guide to Hunting in Germany

A mature stag may weigh up to 175 pounds and grow to a shoulder height of 3 ½ feet and a length of 5 feet. An healthy weight for a mature female fallow deer is 100 pounds.

Only male fallow deer have antlers. The antlers of the stag (*Schaufeln*) are quite similar to those of the Moose, except that fallow deer antlers are much smaller and lighter.

A male calf develops two spikes 10 month after birth (without *Rosen*). The following year a six or eight point antler with *Rosen* develops.

In years after the 6 / 8 point antlers are established, a healthy stag will further develop his antlers into *Schaufeln*.



Young *Damhirsch*

Although the diet of the fallow deer is similar to that of the Red deer, the Fallow deer is not as fastidious in selection of food.

Because fallow deer do not mud bathe like red deer or wild boar, the fallow deer's need for water is less.