

Game Observation



Hoofed Game

The Stag, the roe deer, the chamois and the ibex belong to the hoofed game species.

First to the stag, this is the most seen in the "Dischmaasyl" protected wildlife area. Even though the stag is an antler, the female animal has no antler. The male animal renews his antlers every year. The stag (male) pushes the brocket in the first year of life. Afterwards you count more and more ends at the antler. Age is not determined by antler tines. A hardwired stag can have several ends already at a young age. It depends on whether there was a mild winter or good food. The stag is always throwing his antlers in the spring, March – June, the older bulls even earlier.

The exact age is determined at the lower jaw, by means of tooth grinding. In nature one can estimate the age approximately by means of the physique and the size of the animal's body.

The new antlers will grow in about 120 days. First, it is covered with velvet, which is took off at a later date. As soon as an antler has three ends, the part is called crown. There are different types of crowns. Further the single terms for the horn are explained. The beginning of the horn is called Rose. This is followed by the trez tine. Everything that comes after is called end sprouts or crown.

If a stag has for example eight ends on one side and seven or six ends on the other, the larger number is duplicated. In this example it is a 16th-End. This is called the odd-odd 16th-End. If the antlers have on both sides the same number of ends, it is called a straight 6th or 10th and so on. There are also malformations at the antlers caused by velvet injuries or accidents. It is also interesting to see that the antlers form each year the same shape. It is changed at most by more or fewer ends. So it is possible to recognize the stag every year.

The mating season is in September / October.

Roe Deer

The roe deer cannot be seen in the protected area as much as the stag. The roe deer is a separate game species and not the fawn from the stag, what many believe. Furthermore the roe deer is also an antler bearer. The buck throws his antlers at the beginning of December. Here too, older animals loose their antlers earlier than the younger ones. Normally the roebuck has a horn with three ends. There are also exceptions. First, the lowest part is called Rose. Next brow tine and then end sprouts. The roe deer's first antlers is also called the brocket. The age is determined by means of the lower jaw such as, for example, tooth ablation. The mating season is in July and August. The female has, when it is misted, an egg rest. This means that the kits will be put in June. The deer usually has two fawns. Again, there are exceptions to three or four kicks.

Chamois / Bovid

The chamois is a horn carrier. What means, the chamois does not lose the horn like the roe deer and the stag. The difference is, that also the chamois goat has horns. The animal pushes the horn every year, forming annual rings. A chamois buck can be recognized by having much stronger horns (jags) than the goat. The bow at the top of the horn is bent more than at the head. In the first year of life the length of the horn is about 10-15cm / 4- 6 inches. Here, too, the female has considerably weaker horns. In old age, hardwired chamois have a horn length of 25cm / 10 inches and over. The female animal usually gets a fawn every year. The age is usually read on the horn by counting the year rings. The teeth are important too. The mating season is in November. This time, the goats coat is black and they have long hair on the back. This is called the chamois beard.

Alpine Ibex (Capricorn)

The Capricorn also belongs to the family of the horn carriers like the chamois. The ibex stays high up in the mountains. They are rarely seen together with the chamois. The bucks are also separated from the does during the summer time. The does are looking after the yawns in the summer and in particular protect them from the eagles. The mating season is from the end of November to the end of December. The Capricorn does has a much shorter horn; however the older ones have longer horns. The age is seen on the thrust rings (year rings), the bucks have knotted knots. Usually the bucks get two rings per year. The older the Capricorn, the longer their horns. The age is determined by means of the year rings seen in the rear part of the horn.