



Feeding Deer

Is it Harmful or Helpful?

Joe Folta, PhD
Certified Wildlife Biologist®
District 5 Wildlife Biologist



Pros and Cons of Feeding

Pros

- Feeling of doing good
- Up close observation

Cons

- The rest of the presentation



Even Good Food Can Be Bad





5718
5727





Habitation







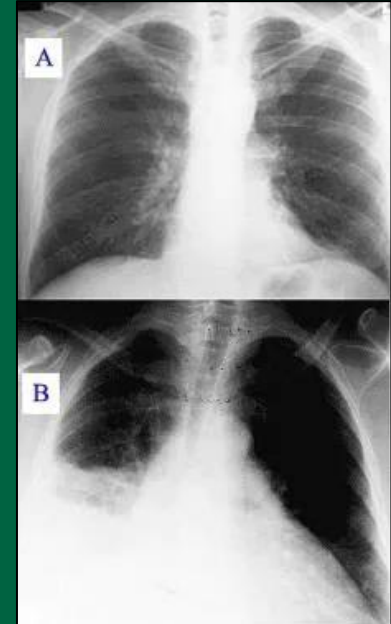
Acclimation





Zoonotic Diseases

Q fever
Chlamydiosis
Leptospirosis
Campylobacterosis
Salmonellosis
Cryptosporidiosis
Giardiasis





Rodents





Raccoons





Coyotes & Foxes



Predators



30.79 inHg ↑ 62°F 09/22/09 11:46 AM RC6 -



Diseases/Ailments

Acidosis (Grain Overload)

- High Carb / Low Fiber
- Change/Kill microflora
- Increased lactic acid

Enterotoxaemia (Overeating Disease)

- Overgrowth of Bacteria (*Clostridium perfringens*)
- Causes lethal amounts of toxins

Both indistinguishable in the field – Dehydration, Diarrhea, Incoordination, Convulsions, Depression, Death (1-3 days)



Hoof Deformities (Foundering Hoof)

- Separation of the hoof wall and rotation of coffin bone
- Acid buildup agitate the growth plate causing pain
- Walk on back of hooves





Cutaneous Fibroma





Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

- Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE)
- Causative Agent: Prion
 - Not alive → Can't be killed
 - Viable for many years
- Spread: Bodily Fluids
- Life Span: 16-24 months post exposure





Feeding Deer – Just Don't Do it

