



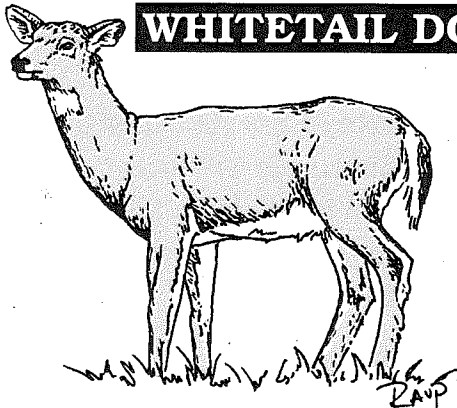
# Elk have been reintroduced to Chequamegon Country.

## Watch for similarities and differences between elk and whitetail deer.

**ELK CALF**



**WHITETAIL DOE**



A 5- to 6-month-old elk calf will be about the same size as an adult whitetail doe.

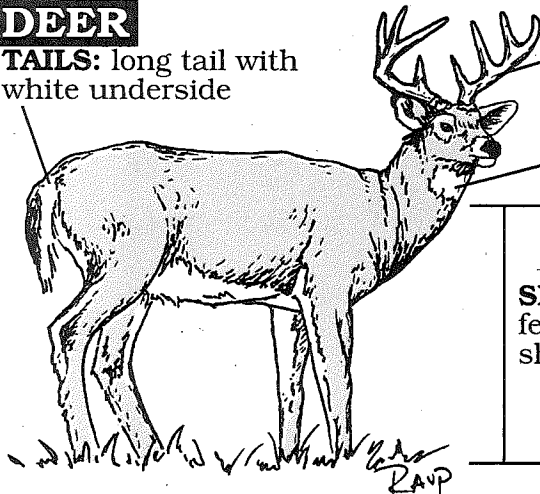
**Similarities and differences:**

**ELK CALVES & WHITETAIL DOES:**

A 5- to 6-month-old elk calf will be about the same size as an **adult whitetail doe**.

**DEER**

**TAILS:** long tail with white underside



**ANTLERS:** curve forward

**COLORING:** white throat patch

**SIZE:** 3-3 1/2 feet at the shoulders

**TAILS:**

**Elk** have a short tail;  
**Deer** have a long tail with a white underside.

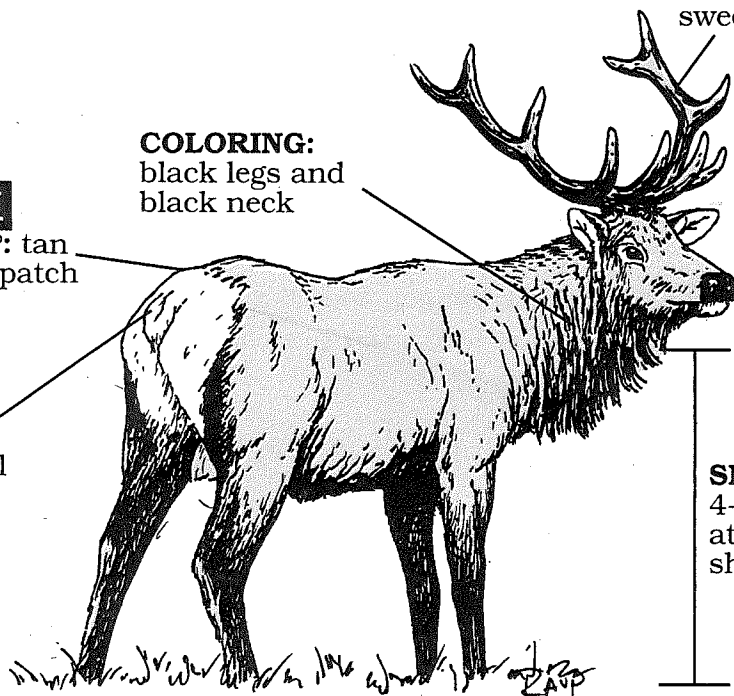
**SIZE:**

**Adult Elk** stand 4-5 feet at the shoulders;  
**Deer** stand 3-3 1/2 feet at the shoulders.

**ELK**

**RUMP:** tan rump patch

**COLORING:** black legs and black neck



**ANTLERS:** sweep back

**SIZE:** 4-5 feet at the shoulders

**COLORING:**

**Elk** have a tan rump patch, black legs and black neck.  
**Deer** have legs the same color as their bodies, and a white throat patch.

**ANTLERS:**

**Elk** antlers sweep back;  
**Deer** antlers curve forward.

**Always be sure of your target AND beyond. In Wisconsin, accidentally shooting an elk will cost you a substantial fine and loss of hunting privileges for up to five years.**



# ELK IN WISCONSIN

## — Elk in Wisconsin, Then and Now —

It has been more than 130 years since native elk roamed Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Elk Reintroduction Study begins efforts to return elk to their native Wisconsin. Several private, state and federal cooperators have joined forces to study the possibility of reestablishing a small herd of elk in the Clam Lake area of the Chequamegon National Forest.

This northern part of the state offers 700 square miles of potential habitat, which, the cooperators hope, the introduced elk will adapt to as their home. The initial 25 elk came from a herd in Michigan, where elk have already been successfully reestablished. This four-year study will evaluate the herd's ability to adapt to available habitat and will gauge its compatibility with human activities. The final decision rests with the State of Wisconsin.

## — Elk Calves vs. Deer Fawns —

1. Elk usually give birth to just a single calf.  
Deer often give birth to twins.
2. At birth, an elk calf weighs anywhere from 19 to 45 pounds.  
A whitetail deer fawn usually only weighs 7 to 8 pounds at birth.
3. Both elk calves and whitetail fawns are spotted for the first few months of life.
4. Don't always depend on size to differentiate between elk and deer.  
A 5- to 6-month-old elk calf will be about the same size as an adult whitetail doe.

## — Wildlife Watching Tips —

Elk are very vulnerable to human disturbance, especially in the wintertime. The stress of fleeing from perceived danger can cost elk the critical stores of body fat that enable them to survive the winter. Though we all love to see wildlife up close, it's safest for both the animals and you to keep your distance. Elk will let you know when you get too close. Signals that you should back off include:

- **The “alarmed” posture:** When elk sense danger, they'll raise their heads, stand up straight and tall, cock their ears forward, open their eyes wide and move with a stiff gait.
- **The “alarm bark”:** A nervous elk may warn other elk of danger with a sharp barking sound.
- **Flight:** The ultimate defense for elk is to run from any perceived danger.



**For more information on the study,  
call Herb Evans,  
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