



## Deer Initiative Launches Deer-Vehicle Collisions Register

By David Hooton

**T**raffic accidents involving deer have presented a major problem in the UK for many years, but until recently there has been no system for central collection of data on such incidents. An initial study undertaken on behalf of the Highways Agency in 1996 estimated that the toll of deer injured or killed annually in collisions with cars was already likely to lie in excess of 30,000 at that time; in addition between 10-20 people are known to be killed and several hundred injured in Britain every year in deer related accidents. However, previous attempts to build a picture of the full extent and geographical distribution of this problem have been hampered by the need to rely on retrospective analysis of such patchy data as happened to be available from various sources which had not been collected to address the questions now being asked of it.

The Deer Initiative have now been commissioned by the Highway Agency to develop a national database for all traffic collisions with deer, in order to provide a firm basis for analysing the key factors associated with such incidents, help identify present accident black-spots and aid prediction of future high risk areas.

An essential part of this project is to establish a number of regular recorders in each county. Local gamekeepers, stalkers, wildlife rescue centers and vets are also called in to deal with a high proportion of accidents. We would be most grateful to hear from anyone who is called upon to deal with injured or dead deer following traffic collisions. If you feel able to contribute, please do contact us by post, email or phone and we can discuss the most convenient method for you to submit regular records. We are also interested in any other records



when individuals have themselves been involved directly in a deer related accident or simply see a dead deer at the roadside.

David Hooton has been appointed as the DI's Deer-Collisions project officer. A web page [www.deercollisions.co.uk](http://www.deercollisions.co.uk) has been set up where you can contact members of the project team, obtain further details, and submit records on-line. If this is not possible, please contact David Hooton Tel. 01842 890798, email [eastern@thedeerinitiative.co.uk](mailto:eastern@thedeerinitiative.co.uk) or by post PO Box 465, Bury St Edmunds, IP28 6XD.

