

FAWN SURVIVAL UPDATE

Predation statistics following the spring 2019 fawning survey

LAST SPRING WE EQUIPPED 128 FAWNS WITH RADIO COLLARS

Despite challenging conditions, this year's fawn survey was our most successful to date.

We collared 73 females and 54 males in an effort to track their survival for Southwest Wisconsin CWD, Deer and Predator project.



We collared our first fawn on May 16 and our last on June 5. This was a later start date than previous years.



The largest fawn was 17.4lbs, and the smallest weighed in at 4.6lbs. On average, they weighed 9.8lbs.



440 individuals volunteered, which was more than double the amount since 2017.

NOW, WE'RE EVALUATING THEIR SURVIVAL

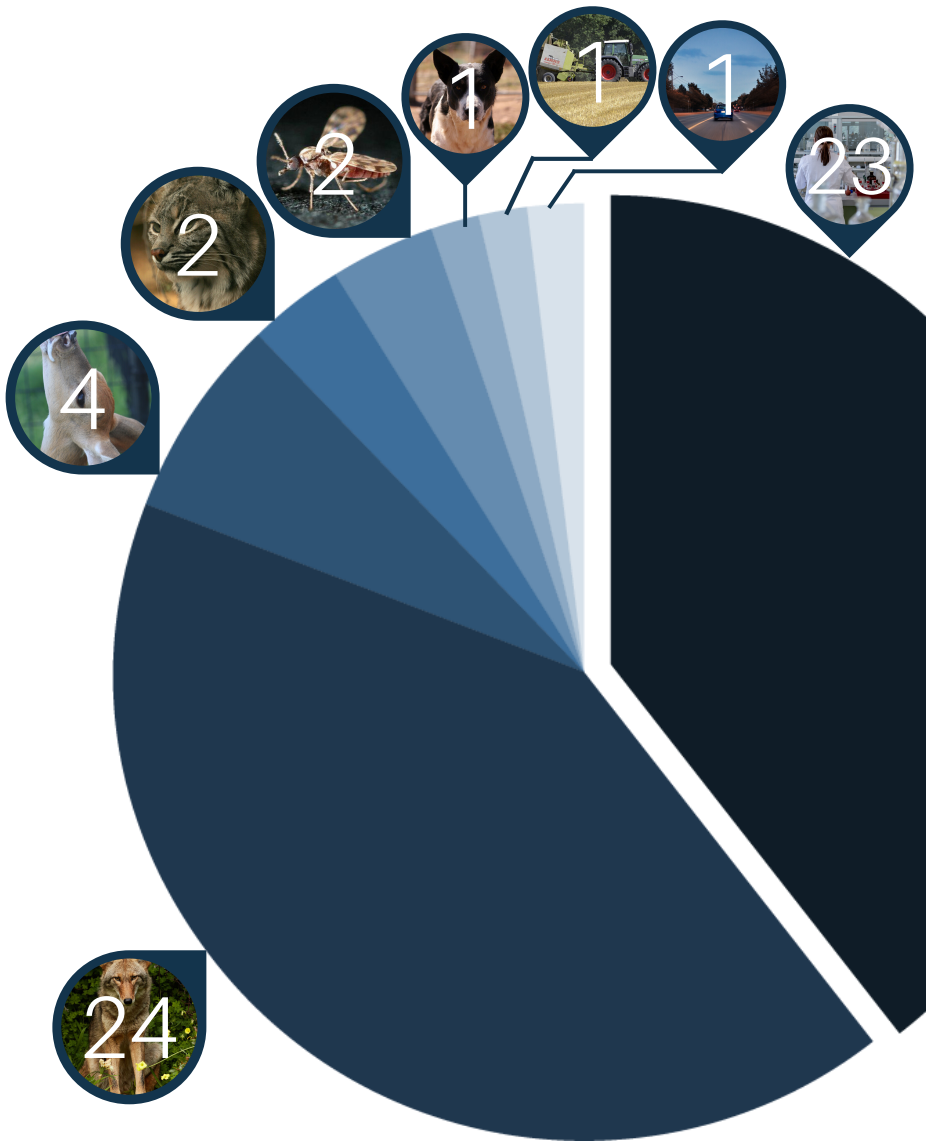
Between 54 and 60 collared fawns died by August of this year. This number is up from the last two years, but the difference is not concerning.

By studying their cause of death, we can learn more about predation trends across our herd.



WHAT WE LEARNED

CAUSES OF FAWN MORTALITY



A motor vehicle, haying equipment and a domestic dog killed one fawn each.

Two fawns that died tested positive for Epizootic Hemorrhagic disease (EHD), a virus transferred by midges that is not contractible by humans.

Coyote predation was considered the most likely cause of death for 24 of the fawns, and bobcats were considered the most likely culprit for two more. These numbers may vary slightly because distinguishing between their predation can be difficult at times.

23 fawns that died did not have an immediately obvious cause. Either we are waiting on lab results, or there was little to no evidence to suggest what happened. Researchers will closely review the evidence and narrow it down to as few possibilities as they can to eliminate as many potential causes of death as possible.

■ Coyote ■ Starvation ■ Bobcat ■ EHD ■ Domestic dog ■ Haying equipment ■ Motor vehicle ■ Unidentified

NEXT YEAR

WE NEED YOUR HELP

This year, volunteers were crucial to helping us surpass our goal of collaring 100 fawns. Participants ranged in age 8 to 80, and clocked in more than 1,840 hours of fawning. Next year, we hope to grow this effort even further.

Keep a lookout for more details on how to sign up to volunteer next spring. Your help will play an integral role in informing our deer management practices.

