

Voluntary intake of feed concentrates and changes in the body weight of reindeer in different seasons

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Abstract: Voluntary intake of feed concentrates of reindeer was studied during 1987-88. Six hinds and their calves were fed with feed concentrates (20.7 % CP in DM) during the summer and fall until the end of the rutting period. After that the hinds and calves were separated and two hinds and calves were added to the groups. The reindeer were fed with less nutritious feed concentrates (10.5 % CP in DM) during the winter until next calving period. The reindeer were fed twice daily up to appetite. The voluntary intake of feed concentrates varied between 1.8 kg and 5.4 kg/hind and its calf/day and increased from July until September. The voluntary intake of feed was 3.2 kg/hind/day and 2.6 kg/calf/day in November and decreased during the winter to 2.0 kg/hind/day and 2.1 kg/calf/day in March. After calving the body weight of the hinds (mean 64.2 kg) increased 14.8 kg until end of November. The growth rate of the calves was rapid during the summer and fall and the body weight was on average 52.7 kg at the end of October. From November to March the calves gained still body weight on average 6.2 kg.

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